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### NOTICE

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# King calls for dialogue to end suffering of Iraqi people

Enough is enough, says Monarch in Euronews interview and urges new approach to resolving crisis 'Any lasting solution over Jerusalem should provide for the rights of all three religions'

Majesty King Hussein has suffering of the Iraqi people situation the country faces as a result of international sanctions imposed four

AMMAN (J.T.) .-- His currently visiting London, also said in an interview called for an end to the with Euronews Television that Jerusalem should be through a dialogue that kept above all disputes of would solve the difficult sovereignty and should be a symbol of peace.

If West Jerusalem is the capital of Israel, then East Jerusalem should be the The King, who is capital of the Palestinians,

said the King.

On Iraq, the King said: "Iraq is very, very important country. It has a great history and great people. It has a great position within the context of this region and area. I really hope that the suffering of the Iraqi people come to an end before long.

of this region," said the King, adding that the country would be eventually restored to its rightful place in the context of the Middle East peace process.

But, as far as the suffering of the people of Iraq is concerned, the King said, "Enough is enough. People

have to be given their chance to live as human beings and not to continue to suffer as they really have over so many years...."

In response to a question on the apparent deadlock over American insistence on not easing the sanctions on Iraq as long as the government of President

Teenager

shot dead

in Nablus NABLUS (Agencies) in three West Bank towns Saturday and Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian teenager after he allegedly stabbed an Israeli soldier. Hundreds of Jewish set-tlers, meanwhile, blocked a West Bank highway as part of their escalating protest against a planned pullout of Israeli troops from Palesti-

The violence erupted as Israeli and Palestinian negotiators made a final attempt to meet Saturday's deadline for reaching agreement on a West Bank troop redeployment and Palestinian elec-

In protests that may have been fuelled by disappoint-

ment over another missed deadline, Palestinians hurled

stones at Israeli troops in the

West Bank towns of Nablus.

In Nablus, some 600 protesters marched through the streets and threw stones and empty bottles at about 100

since three Palestinians were

killed by army gunfire in vio-

lent street clashes last Sun-

In Jenin, dozens of Palesti-

Jenin is the first town to be

Stone-throwing protests

also erupted in Hebron after

Israeli troops shot and killed

a 16-year-old Palestinian,

Ibrahim Khader Deis. The

incident began when the

youth stabbed and lightly

hurt an Israeli soldier guard-

ing the Jewish enclave of Tel

Romeida in the heart of Heb-

ron, according to Israeli re-

ports. Other army guards

opened fire, seriously wound-

ing Deis who later died at a Hebron hospital, the reports

handed over once redeploy-

ment begins.

Jenin and Hebron.

nian towns.

Saddam Hussein remains in power, the King said:

"What Iraq has been faced with is a very dangerous precedent and I do not think that people will accept" a condition that they remove their leadership as the price for ending the sanctions.

The alternative, the King said, is a "dialogue to get

deal with it. And I do not look very happily at the U.N. playing the role of a quarter...that means a (movement) now and then

"I think that enough is enough and that the people of Iraq will not continue to

The King said Jordan and Israel had come a long way signing their peace treaty in October and expressed hope. that peace between peop. will be the end result of Middle East peace proce

"We have an international boundary with the State of Israel for the first time and (Continued on page 7)



A Palestinian woman carrying a child walks past an Israeli soldier in the market of Hebron after a curfew imposed on the

# Israel-PLO deadline expires without word

EREZ (Agencies) — A July laration of principles on redeployment, paving the way for the Palestine Liberation more talks and possible sign an agreement later this more talks and possible sign. Organisation (PLO) for an accord on wider Palestinian self-rule passed without announcement of an agree-

Talks between PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shi-mon Peres, which began twoand-a-half hours before the midnight deadline, went on into early Sunday morning

along the Israel-Gaza border. Israeli and PLO officials had forecast no agreement would be signed on Saturday for an Israeli troop redeployment in the occupied West Bank and Palestinian elections, both of which are a year behind schedule.

A PLO official said Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat were likely instead to issue a decing of a pact in mid-July.

Israel has cited "security concerns for the delay in agreeing the details of a pullout from Arab towns in the

The PLO has accused Israel of backtracking from an interim self-rule deal signed in 1993 that set up autonomy in Gaza and the West Bank enclave of Jericho in May 1994.

"We are here to narrow gaps. We hope to reach agreement tonight," Mr. Peres told reporters as he waited to greet Mr. Arafat at an Israel-PLO liaison office near the Erez checkpoint.

Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres were expected to announce after their meeting that intensive negotiations would con-

tackling three issues - a troop pullout from Palestinian population centres, Palestinian elections and the transfer of powers from Israel's military government to the Palestinian autonomy council that is to be elected.

Mr. Peres said earlier Saturday the main problem was to reconcile between Palestinian demands for an extensive pullout and Israel's need to protect the 100,000 Jewish settlers living in the West Bank.

"Many issues have been concluded," Mr. Peres told Israel Radio, "The central problem on which Israel is not budging is the problem of

Clinton satisfied with results

ternational Cooperation Nabil Shaath concurred that the major disagreement was on the extent of withdrawal.

"There are still gaps be-tween the concepts. We haven't looked at each other's maps yet because we haven't agreed on the concepts," he said after a meeting of Mr. Arafat's cabinet.

had agreed to have troops pull out of six West Bank towns by the end on the year, or before Palestinian elections. Soldiers would remain in the tense town of Hebron.

nians stoned soldiers during a march in support of Palestinian security detainees held by Israel. The army fired Israel Television said Israel teargas and stun grenades into the crowd and imposed a curfew on the town.

However, the Palestinians

demand that the Israelis pull back further and that Palestinian police also take control of Arab villages. Israel wants to remain in charge of secur-

### CAIRO (Agencies) - President Hosni Mubarak's top adviser said on Saturday

to the Greek throne in exile, and Mary (AFP photo)

Egypt will not go to war with Sudan despite Egyptian suspicions that Khartoum was behind an attempt to assassinate Mr. Mubarak last

"We have realised that Sudan is involved in operations which threaten Egypt's national security... (but) Egypt could not think of hurting or spilling the blood of any Egyptian or Sudanese," Osama Al Baz

told Egyptian television. Dr. Baz's comments followed a strident call for military revenge against Sudan, published in an Egyptian newspaper after Mr. Mubarak's increasingly belligerent speeches earlier in the week. But Dr. Baz said Egypt had "political and legal means of responding without

resorting to military means" and would not interfere in the

internal affairs of another

But Sudanese Minister of

State for Foreign Affairs

Ghazi Salaheddin Atabani

expressed doubts about

Egypt's willingness to avoid a

conflict and warned that the

The settler protest took place along the highway linking Nablus and the Palestinian town of Kalkiliya, Israel radio said.

Hundreds of settlers blocked the road Saturday morning, and traffic was backed up for several kilometres. Israeli (Continued on page 7)

"We look at these threats seriously and we believe that everything is possible... and the situation in northern Sudan is tense," he told Radio Islam, broadcast from

Egypt's assurances that it would not attack Sudan, said Cairo's troops had already attacked his country a few

Egypt) has attacked Sudanese territory. In 1992, the Egyptian armed forces attacked positions of the Sudanese police and killed two soldiers," he added.

Mr. Atabani stressed that

Egyptian investigators who travelled to Ethiopia say 13 people, including three

# sein with Queen Sofia of Spain and King Juan businessman Robert W. Miller, at the Greek Carlos after the wedding of Prince Pavlos, heir Orthodox Cathedral in London on Saturday

# Egypt says it will not Nablus has been tense ince three Palestinians were lilled by army ounfire in vio-

GREEK WEDDING: His Majesty King Hus- Chantall-Miller, daughter of American

Mr. Atabani told a radio station run by the Hizbollah group in Lebanon that anything was possible after threats from Mr. Mubarak.

the Bekaa Valley. Mr. Atabani, reacting to

days ago, "killing a police officer and two soldiers" in a disputed border area. "It is not the first time it

his country welcomed any mediation to put an end to the crisis, adding, however, that Egyptian forces should "return to where they came from," the radio said.

(Continued on page 7)

### Sudan takes Egypt to U.N. SUDAN ON Saturday com-

plained to the U.N. Security Council about Egyptian attacks in a disputed border region, the official Sudanese news agency said. It also called on the world body to resolve the long running dispute over the Halaib region on the Red

The Sudanese amba dor to the United Nation filed the complaint with the council after Sudan said two of its policemen and a soldier were killed in skirmishes in the disputed Halaib region this week. Sudan said in the com-

plaint that on Tuesday the Egyptian army attacked Sudanese police in the region, killing one and injuring seven others, the news agency SUNA said. The army "continued its

escalations and aggression and attacked a coastal station north of Halaib (town), killing a Sudanese policeman and injuring another," it said. (Continued on page 7)

### Serb shells kill 4 in Sarajevo Random

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — Bosnian Serbs laid heavy shell fire on Sarajevo on Saturday, killing four people including one at the marketplace where one of the city's worst atrocities took place

last vear.

A shell exploded in the heart of the Bosnian capital's old town 10 metres from the Merkale market where a mortar killed 68 people in February 1994. Eyewitnesses said the blast

left one person dead and at least 10 wounded at the site which has become a symbol of Sarajevo's suffering under three years of siege.

The casualty toll was minimised this time by the absproposed air surveys instead. I ence of the usual crowd of

Saturday shoppers as Sarajevo's civilian population took shelter from mortars and shells fired by the besieging Serbs.

The barrage killed three other people and wounded dozens more elsewhere in the city which has suffered heavy casualties since a U.N. ban on heavy weapons collapsed a month ago.

"It seems (the shelling) is becoming more random, said U.N. spokesman Gary Coward. "This was blatant firing into the city.'

In another sign of combatant's growing antagonism towards U.N., peacekeepers accused Serbs of conducting deliberate and coordinated attacks on four U.N. facili-

Among them was the main U.N. communications centre. and French peacekeeping headquarters, which were hit by two mortars on Thursday. U.N. observations posts and camps elsewhere in and around the city were targetted with rifle-grenades and small arms fire, U.N. officials

"It is more than likely to our view that these attacks were direct and deliberate targetting of U.N. facilities and personnel," said spokes-man Coward. The intent "could have been to kill (or) it could have been to send a message.

Serb shelling of the besieged city has increased

since the Muslim-led government army launched an offensive June 15. On Friday, Colonel Co-

ward had implied that the mortar hits were inadvertent. He appealed to the government to stop using weapons located near the compound. charging the attacks were drawing Serb fire. The building serves both as the U.N. command and headquarters for the French contingent. the largest of the multinational force.

Less than two hours after Col. Coward spoke, another three shells landed close to the building, though the compound took no direct hits.

(Continued on page 3)

### Cairo to host --talks on displaced

CAIRO (AFP) - Israel and Arab states will meet here on Wednesday to discuss the return of Palestinians displaced rom their homes in the 1967 Middle East war, Egyptian Deputy Foreign Minister Badr Hammam said. An Arab-Israeli technical commission will meet "to examine the return of Palestinians on the basis of the declaration of principles' signed by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in September 1993, Mr. Hammam said. The meeting will group Israeli, Palestinian, Egyptian and Jordanian officials, he

### Arafat says he was targetted for attack

GAZA CITY (AP) — Yasser Arafat told his cabinet ministers Saturday of a plot to assassinate him and two other Arab leaders in Ethiopia, according to a statement issued after the meeting. The statement carried no details, and Mr. Arafat aides were not immediately available for comment. On Monday, there was an attempt on life of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa

of Israeli-Syrian meetings CHICAGO (Agencies) — U.S. President Bill Clinton telephoned Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Israeli xibility" of Syria.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Friday to express satisfaction with military talks between the countries hosted by U.S. officials. Although the army chiefs

of Israel and Syria ended three days of talks on Thursday without agreement on security measures to back up a proposed Israeli withdrawal on the Golan Heights, the White House said Mr. Clinton was satisfied with the outcome of the discussions. The president called Mr.

Assad and Mr. Rabin "to tell them that he was very pleased and satisfied with the meeting with the chiefs of staff," White House spokeswoman Mary Ellen Glynn told reporters travelling with the president.

She told reporters the separate telephone conversations were brief but gave no

other details. Mr. Clinton met Thursday at the White House with Syrian Chief of Staff General Hikmet Shehabi and his Israeli counterpart, General Amnon Shahak.

Israel on Friday described the Washington meetings as a small step in the right direction, but lamented the infle-

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa said there had been no apparent progress in the negotiations, but that the talks would continue. Speaking after talks with French President Jacques Chirac, Mr. Sharaa refused

the negotiations. Mr. Sharaa said the Washington negotiations were "serious and conducted in depth. The American involvement was satisfactory,' as far as we are concerned.

to comment on the details of

"There is no apparent result so far, but we cannot prejudge the talks before we assess the whole discussions that have taken place after the return to Damascus of Syrian Chief of Staff General Hikmat Shehabi," Mr. Sharaa said.

Despite the lack of progress, Mr. Sharaa appeared more optimistic on the peace process than in the past during his talks with Mr. Chirac. French sources said.

An official Syrian news-

paper said on Saturday the

Israeli troops to remain on the Golan Heights as part of a peace accord. The daily Tishreen, in an

apparent reference to Israel's demand for the setting up of an Israeli observation point in the Golan Heights, said Damascus would never accept any form of Israeli presence in the plateau.

"Occupation remains occupation whether it covers the whole of the Golan or a small part of it," Tishreen "Syria made it clear∙in every occasion that it will never

cede an atom of its soil and

that its sovereignty on the

Golan will never be a matter

for bargaining or negotiations," it said. Proposed Syrian-Israeli arrangements include the setting up of early warning systems, demilitarised zones and peacekeeping

Diplomats said Israel wanted to set up an Israeli observation point in the Golan to serve as an early warning post but Damascus rejected the demand and

# Court hears three more witnesses in 'Arab Afghan' case

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Two witnesses told the State Security Court on Saturday that nearly \$4,500 sent to their joint banking account here by Saudi Mohammad Khalifa were mainly intended and spent for air passages for Islamic teachers to be sent abroad and had no links with subversion in Jordan.

The testimonies, supported by records of the account and authenticated by the manager of the bank who also appeared in court, appeared to back Mr. Khalifa's argument that he was only a philanthropist interested in spreading Islamic education and was not linked to extrem-

The witnesses appeared in the State Security Court in response to summons by the tribunal which is reviewing its verdicts issued in December after a four-month trial of the so-called Arab Afghan case a reference to the purported links of some of the defendants with Arab volunteers who fought in the

In its Dec. 16 verdict, the court sentenced 11 to death — including Mr. Khalifa and two others in absentia — and handed down to seven others stiff jail terms after finding them guilty of carrying out and plotting bomb attacks at public places and subversive acts to destabilise Jordan.

The review of the verdicts was ordered in April by the Court of Cassation, which makes mandatory consideration of all State Security Court rulings. The Court of Cassation said the State Security Court should take into consideration the testimonies of three witnesses one security officer and two civilians — and review the

Mr. Khalifa is undergoing a retrial after he surrendered in May in line with a provision that qualifies anyone sentenced in absentia in Jordan for a retrial if he or she surrenders/is arrested by Jordanian authorities. The other two sentenced in obsentia - a Jordanian and an Omani - remain fugitive and the verdicts against them remain valid.

In Saturday's 90-minute hearing, Omar Diab, who

run by Mr. Khalifa in the Philippines for nearly 20 months in 1992 and 1993, testified that he used to transfer all his earnings - \$500 per month — to a joint account with his sister Khaldiyeh at the Islamic Bank branch in Beqaa. All his living expenses in the Philippines were paid for by the school, he said.

The statement account showed a \$4,496 transfer in mid-1993. The witness explained that part of the transfer represented his own earnings and the rest was given by Mr. Khalifa to be spent on paying the air ticket for two religious teachers to go to Russia and for Abdullah Hashaika, the first defendant in the case, to travel to the Philippines to work at Mr. Khalifa's school.

(The defence says that Mr. Khalifa represented Islamic charities in Saudi Arabia and was organising Koranic and Arabic-language schools and teachers around the world). Mr. Hashaika was paid

\$1,000 by the witness's sister, who told the court that she did not know the man and had handed over the money at her doorstep when he called on her to collect it.

Both witnesses said no part of funds from the account was spent for any other purpose. Mr. Diab returned to Jordan when Mr. Hashaika replaced him in the Philip-

The case against Mr. Khalifa stemmed from a statement that Mr. Hashaika made to interrogators that the Saudi had promised to finance a subversive group in Jordan during a meeting in the Philippines while he (Hashaika) taught at Mr.

Khalifa's religious school. Mr. Khalifa denies the charges and argues that all his dealings with Mr. Hashaika were related to the latter's work at the school.

The court set its next session for Wednesday, when it will hear a behaviour report on one of the other defendants who, according to the Court of Cassation, should have been treated as a minor since he was under 18 when the verdict was issued. The report will come from the prison where he is being held. At Wednesday's session,

the court is expected to conclude the hearings and set a



'SECURITY IN BETHLEHEM': Veiled Palestinian girls walk past Israeli soldiers in the West Bank town of Bethlehem on Saturday after Israel tightened security there following the expansion of a nearby settlement and the opening of a Jewish seminary there (AFP photo)

# Behind Mubarak adulation, Egypt's problems remain

television, any channel, there's Hosni Mubarak waving to crowds, being hugged peasants, raising the Egyptian flag, explaining how he stayed cool even as assassins' bullets whizzed by.

The adulation of the Egyptian president reached its height Thursday — four days after the assassination attempt in Addis Ababa. Ethiopia — when he appeared before thousands of banner-waving workers celebrating his survival.

For many, the relief was sincere. But others saw the barrage of TV images as an attempt to bolster Mr. Mubarak while distracting from Egypt's woes. Mr. Mubarak faces gripes

about rising prices and up to 20 per cent unemployment, charges he has tried to stifle criticism of the government. and complaints that he wants to keep opposition candidates from running in this fall's parliamentary elections. Human rights groups also

charge the government's battle with Muslim militants who are blamed for trying to kill the president Monday during his trip to Ethiopia has led to mass arrests, torture and summary execu-

"If things continue along this road, one day there is many without charges, and

said Adel Hussein, the for-mer editor of the Islamic bi-weekly newspaper Al Shaab.

Mr. Hussein was one of those journalists who wound up in jail after writing persistent articles critical of the He was held for about

three weeks, accused of possessing anti-government pamphlets - found on an airplane seat he occupied and of revealing military secrets in a newspaper article. No charges were ever brought. He denied he ever had the pamphlets and said the supposed secrets had

other newspapers. Mr. Hussein, who suffers from ulcers and heart trouble, said he was kept in a dank, windowless cell. But his complaints pale before other criticism of Egypt's security services.

already been written about in

In a report issued in May. the Egyptian Organisation for Human Rights charged that police have shot 38 people while in custody and routinely jail members of suspects' families to force their relatives to surrender.

The organisation said 10.000 people were in jail as suspected Muslim militants,

that torture was used often during interrogations and in prisons. The government denies such charges.

In a way, the 67-year-old Mubarak is a victim of his own efforts to open up Egyptian society. He came to power in 1981 after Muslim extremists gunned down his predecessor. Anwar Sadat, for signing a peace treaty

When first in office, Mr. Mubarak's benign face and booming laugh gained him the nickname "the laughing cow," after the French cheese 'La vache qui rit.' Later, when he succeeded in improving Egypt's telepehone system, electricity and bridges, he was known as "Hosni Kabari." or "Hosni of the Bridges.

Lately, his militant opponents have called him 'Mubarak the Pharaoh," implying he is like the absolute rulers of ancient times.

The nicknames show the full sweep of Mr. Mubarak's rule. The opposition press is livelier now than ever before. The human rights"organisations criticising him were not allowed to exist before he came to power.

But the press law his government recently adopted,



Hosni Mubarak

criticism, raised penalties for defaming state institutions to up to five years - from three

Mohammad Sid Ahmad, a leftist writer, said that even though the government was forced to back down, trying to put restrictions on the media undercuts democracy. Mr. Mubarak is in his third

six-year term. In the past, holding on to power too long has led Egyptian leaders to brutally oppress their political opponents. Already, some Egyptians

are noting the similarity between this week's celebrations of Mr. Mubarak and the elaborate ceremonies that Sadat staged to dramatise his own importance. "I hope these rallies won't

go to his head," said sociologist Sandeddin Ibrahim, a professor at the American University in Cairo, "that he will continue to be

## Arafat - a would-be statesman seeks state

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A going back. You can even year after arriving in Gaza to a hero's welcome Yasser Arafat has juggled a multi-tude of problems and managed to keep the fragile peace process alive but is far from creating a Palestinian state. Escratic scenes greeted Mr.

Arafat, when dressed in his familiar military fatigues and scarf or keffiah, he stepped onto Palestinian soil on July 1, 1994, ending a 27 year.

He carried with him the hopes and dreams of two million Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip and West Bank, desperate to end decades of Israeli occupation. But the honeymoon period

was soon over. Since then the long-time revolutionary has had to confront the hardline Islamic groups opposed to the peace process with Israel, regular closures of borders of the Palestinian territories which have thrown thousands out of work, and the slow dribble of international aid. In November increasing

disillusion erupted into the first serious clashes between Palestinian policemen and militants which left 13 dead in Gaza City. But 12 months on Mr. Ara-

fat is on the verge of a deal with Israel on the next phase of Palestinian self-rule, including a withdrawal of Israeli troops on the West Bank and elections.

New buildings are springing up in Gaza and he has succeeded in clamping down on the extremists. The crowning achievement

was in December, when the once reviled "terrorist," stood with Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres to receive the Nobel Peace Prize. Now a regular guest in many Western capitals, Mr. Arafat has begun to adopt the mantle of a stateman

thought. "Things are now definitely going in the right direction, Terje Larsen, the U.N. representative to the territories told AFP.

more quickly than many

"I would say that Mr. Arafat has performed more than well," he said, adding that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader "learned fast."

"There is also a cultural revolution which is the most radical change. The skirts are going up and the veils are

walking hand in hand. This has a tremendous political effect. This signifies fundamentalism being pushed

"There is a restoration of hope... growing support for the Palestinian experiment," he added.

A poll in mid-June found three-quarters of Palestinians support the continuing peace process with Israel.

But human rights groups have denounced Mr. Aprilat for setting up a special halitary court which has dispersed quick justice - with 300 - to about 10 miliappeal

Hardliners have accused him of selling out the Palestinian cause for nothing in return.

"The goals of independ ence and sovereignty that the PLO leader set have not been achieved," said Imad Falsi editor-in-chief of Al-Waten the mouthpiece of the Islanic Resistance Movement

"He has failed to reach an understanding with the apposition and the spectre of a civil war stalks Gaza. The prisoners have not been freed, the settlements have not been dismantled and spite everything Mr. Arai continues the political pro-cess with Israel," he added."

Others have criticised his autocratic leadership and corruption within his administra-"He's the only one who

can take decisions. He has to sign everything — even the order for telephone lines, because they discovered corruption." said his Israeli biographer Danny Rubinstein. "Arafat is adopting the

Arabic system of rule. But he's not cruel and he's not tyrannical. He's even more democratic than most Arab "Above all, he's arrived,

which is already quite an achivement. He's managed to stay alive and he's stayed the But he added that the PLO leader, who at 64 is expecting

soon to be a father for the first time, had maybe had his day.
"Like Moses he brought people to the promised land, but he will never create the state. The Palestinians need

someone who is a creator,

not a revolutionary.

# Moroccan women seek

manded new laws to protect women from domestic violence and harassment and the repeal of statutes that are discriminatory. "There should be a law

defining violence which can Casablanca on Friday.

but lawvers say the practice is widespread in Morocco's patriarchal society where 75 per One of the speakers recal-

was beaten to death by her husband. Sentencing is usually lenient in cases of domestic violence. The one-day conference on

Women (AMDF). It dealt with sexual harass"Civic laws are particularly

'Women are still seen as children needing guidance." she said.

.. Only men can take the decision to divorce without giving their wives prior warning. This law should be abolished as well as the law allowing polygamy which is unacceptable in a society where women work and are financially independent," Ms. Wadah said.

Speakers said new laws harassment.

#### Turkish general attacks democratic reforms as damaging war on PKK dish separatism and is a was attending a Black Sea solution to the Kurdish change Article 8 under visages the amendment of European pressure. focus of Western criticism leaders summit. problem and largely given of Turkey's human rights "We couldn't say any-"He's not saying the the military a free hand to

ANKARA (R) -- One of Turkey's top generals has condemned government efforts to further democracy as called for by the West, saving it was undermining the army's fight with Kurdish separatist rebels. Turkish newspapers said on Saturday. . "We'll finish terrorism

soon but we're being held back by democracy and human rights." the Yeni Yuzyil daily quoted armed forces Deputy Chief General Ahmet Corekci as tellling a briefing of Turkish journalists at the general staff headquarters.

Several dailies said Gen. Corekci criticised an attempt by the coalition government of Prime Minsiter Tansu Ciller to scrap the anti-terrorism law's Article 8, which restrains freedom of express-

The article has been used to jail scores of writers on grounds of their perceived support for Kur"We want Article 8 to

stay as it is while the fight against terrorism is going on. Changing it is not appropriate," Gen. Corekci was quoted as telling the briefing, to which foreign journalists were not in-

Military spokesman were not available for comment later. Western human rights

group accuse the Turkish military of burning villages in its fight against Kurdish rebels, torture and other violations. The European Parlia-

ment has conditioned Turkey's entry into a customs union with the European Union on Ankara carrying out democratic reforms. Despite his criticism,

Gen. Corekci said the armed forces would not go against any decision by parliament to scrap or thing if parliament decided

to change it in Turkey's higher interests for reasons like the customs union," he told the journalists. The army and government have repeatedly said

Turkey is on the point of defeating the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK) guerrilla group, which fights for Kurdish autonomy or independence in the southeast. Western analysts say

more than 17,000 people have been killed in the guerrillas' 11-year-old campaign but Ms. Ciller's office last week put the death toll at nearly 20,000. President Suleyman Demire!. ousted as prime

minister by the army in 1970 and 1980, played down Gen. Coreker's comments. Anatolian news agency said.

"Don't read too much into this." he told the agency in Bucharest where he

army is treading on human rights. He's saying it has

problems because it is not treading on human rights." Mr. Demirel said. The armed forces ruled Turkey for three years after the 1980 takeover.

quelling political violence before handing power back to civilians. Gen. Corekci said Kurdish demands for the lifting of bans on Kurdishlanguage education in

schools and Kurdish broad-

casting were the first steps

to separatism. "It's a salami tactic, the more you cut the more they want," he said. "They have political and cultural demands. Writing, travelling. drawing, speaking. broadcasting, special education. We can't consent to that," he was

quoted as saying. Successive governments have rejected any political fight the PKK.

Amendments are setback The quest to liberalise

the Turkish constitution inherited from the last military regime encountered difficulties Friday during a debate in parliament. None of the proposed amendments during the first reading attained the necessary two thirds majority required for an automatic modification of the country's basic law. The failure was a blow to Prime Minister Ciller, who had been anticipating suc-

A second reading will be held beginning Tuesday or Wednesday.
A reform needs 300

votes to be passed automatically. If it gets be-tween 270 and 300 a referendum is necessary. The push for reform en-

**JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR** 

around 20 articles of a constitution published in 1982 under the military regime from the 1980 coup d'etat. Reformers want trade union rights extended to

civil servants and to permit trade unions and associations to have their own constitutions. They also want to lower the age of the right to vote. However, the reforms do not include any measure about the freedom of expression, desired by advocates of democracy and also by Western countries pushing for liberalisation in Tur-Legislators accepted

only seven amendments in the first reading rejecting another 15 and passing two for the bill stage. But even the seven

approved articles did not receive the 300 votes that would mean them avoiding a referendum, plunging the debate into difficulties from the outset.

department at the Oueen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (th)53201-5, where it should always be veri-fied

### laws against violence CASABLANCA (R) — A ment, discrimination and Moroccan women's lobby de-

be physical, sexual, as well as mental and ways of proving such violence." lawyer Saadia Wadah told a women's conference in The conference gave no figures for domestic violence

cent of women are illiterate. led a recent case where a wife

the theme of "Violence against Women" was organised by the Moroccan Association for Human Rights for

domestic violence and called for the repeal of all laws which discriminate against women in the home and in

the workplace. unjust to women," said AMDF President Najat Razi. She noted that a woman could not marry without permission from a male relative

Divorce and child custody laws also discriminated against women, the conference heard.

should take into consideration that violence could also take the form of sexual

### JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO	
14:00 The	Flintstones
14:30 M	ighty Jungle
15:00 Pugv	all Summer
15:30 N	Iovie Magic
16:00 The Ho	use of Eliott
17:00 La March	
18:30 Tennis Wim	Medon 1995
19:00 No	
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PRAYER TIMES

CHURCHES St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweißeh, Tel #10740 Assemblies of God Church, Tel. St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590

Church of the Annunciation Tel.

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543. Armenian Catholic Church Tel an Orthodox Church Tel St. Ephraim Church Tel. 77(75). Amman International Church Tel. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: 824.25. German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tcl 684195 The Latter-Day Saints Tcl. 65493; Church of Nazaren Tcl. 675691. The Evangelical Local Church in

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Depart-

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AMMAN:	
Dr. Fakher Bilbess	663412
Dr. Khakfoun Asfour	(40011)
Dr. Adnan Zaghhoul	598140
Dr. Abdul Hadi Tavim	420115
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IRBID:	
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Amal Hospital 617155 ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt Hospital (199983323
Zarqa National Hospital Ibn Sana Hospital (109)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (109)996732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital (109)996732
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery (65)99

> Princess Hava Hospital . . . (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL **AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information

.. (02)275555

Princes Basma Hospital Greck Catholic Hospital Ibn Al Nalces Hospital

Royal Jordanian (RJ) (Terminal 1) ...... Rangkok, Muscat (RJ) ..... Lamaca (RI)

ARRIVALS

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Serios shell Saraje bage 1) The boths on Friday de-ion, along the U.N. facili-



REGENT VISITS PRIME MINISTRY: His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah Ben Al Hussein, the Regent, Saturday meets with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker. Prince Abdullah also visited the General Headquarters of the army and met with Chairring with the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai Kaabneh. Also Saturday, in Regent visited the Public Security Department (PSD) for a meeting with PSD Directicles of Staff General Abdul Pahman Advan (Patra photo) tor Lieutenant General Abdul Rahman Adwan (Petra photo)

# Delegates urge more assistance to Palestinian educational needs

AMMAN (Petra) - At the end of week-long meeting here Saturday by Arab states on the subject of education in Palestinian self rule areas and occupied lands, a statement summing up the recommendations called on Arab League member states to provide a \$20 million fund to cover the cost of 'educational programmes inside the Palestinian lands. The discussions at the

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meetings centred on the extension of assistance in education to Palestinians in the self rule areas and the occupied territories. During the meeting the participants made several

recommendations concerning academic, vocational and educational programmes which are broadcast on radio and television from Arab states to students in the self-rule areas and occupied lands.

The delegates representing Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt in addition to Palestine and the Arab League requested that the Palestinian delegation provide the Arab League with a list of high priority technical and administrative needs in education to enable these countries in turn to work towards

specific goals. The delegates also called for the provision of a detailed report concerning Israeli incidences of malpractice against Palestinian educational institutions.

They urged the Arab League secretariat to maintain close contact with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) and to continue to hold discussions that centre on educational issues and that aim to provide assistance to Palestinian educational programmes and institutions. Also on the agenda was the call for Arab countries to continue granting seats and scholarships to eligible Palestinian students at their universities.

The delegates discussed the general vocational training situation in Palestinian lands and again requested that the Palestinian delegation submit a report on vocational education and the type of assistance required in that

They asked the Arab League to press the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) to expand its existing vocational training facilities.

Those recommendations, or the delegates said, will be submitted to the general conference of supervisors of Palestinian affairs who will hold a meeting in Cairo later this month.

# Mauritanian minister ends official visit, affirms country's support for peace process

Mauritanian Foreign Minister:Mohammad Ould Lakhal Saturday thet with His Royal Highness Prince Abdullah, the Regent, and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to express his country's support for the Middle East peace process.

The Mauritanian minister said his country greatly appreciates His Majesty King Hussein's endeavours for peace and for serving the Arab nation.

In welcoming Mr. Lakhal, Prince Abdullah said that King Hussein was pursuing all efforts to bolster inter-Arab relations.

At an earlier meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr. Lakhhal discussed issues of common concern and commended the Kingdom's efforts in ending inter-Arab differences.

Mr. Lakhal, who arrived in Amman Thursday evening. met separately with Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti and discussed the prospect of holding meet-

AMMAN (Petra) - Visiting ings by officials from the two countries to pave the ground for joint agreements in trade, economic and cultural fields.

These agreements could be concluded during a visit by Mr. Kabariti to Mauritania at a later date.

The two reviewed pan-Arab. regional and international issues of common interest and the latest developments in the peace process.

They expressed continued backing to the peace process based on international legitimacy and U. N. Security Council resolutions and their backing for the Oslo and Cairo agreements between Israel and the Palestine National Authority (PNA).

The two ministers also discussed ways of ending inter-Arab differences and discussed the situation in

After the meetings Mr. Lakhal left Amman and was seen off by Mr. Kabariti and



Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday meets with Mauritanian Foreign Minister Mohammad Ould Lakhal who was on a one day visit to the Kingdom (Petra

# France, Jordan look into possibility of financing of water pipeline in the north

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN -- France and Jordan are discussing possibilities of financing for a pipeline project that would help pump drinking water from northern sources to Amman and dramatically improve the availability of potable water in the capital.

The project involves laying 65 kilometres of pipes from near the Yarmouk River in the north alongside the King Abdullah Canal to a main station at Deir Alla, from where the water will be pumped to Amman through an existing pipeline.

The estimated cost of the project is about \$40 million. French Ambassador to Jordan Bernard Bajolet said Thursday the two governments were discussing

financing for the project, but no definite figures were agreed upon yet.

The pipeline will have an annual pumping capacity of 45 million cubic metres in the first stage and 60 million cubic metres in the second

It will be connected to a pipeline that started bringing water from Israel's Lake Tiberias to the King Abdullah Canal last month.

The pipeline is seen key to increasing the availability of drinking water to Amman and its suburbs, which are already facing a shortage and where the demand is: expected to grow dramatically over the next few

Mr. Bajolet said French financing for the project, as and when it materialises, will be part of Paris' economic assistance to Jordan.

The precise components of the financing, what part of it will be in aid and what part will be in concessionary loans, have not been determined yet, but we hope to arrive at an agreement soon," he told a press conference marking the end of the French presidency of the

An EU diplomat said meanwhile that work was continuing swiftly on conducting feasibility studies on water projects included in the Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed on Oct. 26. The studies do not include the pipeline.

European Union (EU).

The studies on the Jordanian-Israeli projects will be in two stages," said the diplomat. "The first stage will involve sending experts to actual site of the proposed projects for first-hand information on the terrain and features of the land and the second stage will involve detailed reviews of the technical aspects of the pro-

The projects involve two dams and diversion structures on the rivers Yarmouk and Jordan and a desalination plant in Israeli territory.

The Lake Tiberias-King Abdullah Canal pipeline, which will bring in 30 million cubic metres of water every year, is one of the projects mentioned in the peace treaty. The \$5 million pipeline,

financed by Jordan, runs 2.2 kilometres in Israeli territory and 1.1 kilometre in Jordanian land.

The EU is financing the feasibility studies on the

dam and desalination plant projects with a grant of 11 million European currency units (ECUs), about \$14 million.

The European Commission, the executive arm of the 15-member EU, is coordinating the studies, which are expected to be completed in 1996.

Subject to the finding of feasibility studies. "which we are sure will be positive," the EU, along with other countries, will consider financing for the project, German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said during a visit to Jordan last month.

Germany, whose contribution accounts for 28 per cent of the overall EU budget, is also expected to extend bilateral assistance to the

### **NEWS IN BRIEF**

Premier postpones some civil servants' leaves

AMMAN (Petra) - Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday instructed government departments to postpone the granting of work leaves to those civil servants who have been chosen to serve on municipal election committees. Municipal election around the Kingdom are scheduled for July 11.

Lower House to meet today

AMMAN (Petra) -- The Lower House of Parliament will meet Sunday under the chairmanship of Speaker Saed Hayel Srour to hear replies from government ministers on queries presented by the deputies in the former sessions of the chamber. Several government proposals will be referred to the concerned house committees for examination. The house will also resume discussion of a draft labour law starting from article 51.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabi press. Readers are advised to verify the listed times and places with the conerned insitutions.

FILM

"Gettysburg (Part I)" at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

### LECTURE

Lecture (in Arabic) entitled "How Do We Attain Arab Reconciliation ," by Jawdat Sa'id at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation at 6:30 p.m.

### **EXHIBITIONS**

Paintings by Jordanian Artist Mr. ammad Majali at the Phoenix Gallery of Culture and

Works by Iraqi artist Tahija Al Hakim at Ab'ad At

Exhibition demonstrating the development of cinema over the past century at the French

Ali Jabri, "Selected Works '85['95" at Darat Al Funun, until July 4).

\*Exhibition of works by Jordanian and Iraqi artists at Orfali Gallery

#### CAMP SEASON: Minister of Youth Awad a school ceremony in the Shafa Badran district marking the start of a three-week programme for youth organised by the ministry in cooperation with several other departments and the Jordan Armed Forces . A total of 7,500 youths from governorates around the Kingdom are involved in the entitled: Construction and Work Camps. The youths will carry out activities at 24 locations. Their chores will include maintenance work, clean up activities and tree planting. The young volunteers will also

### Consumer protection societies meet to compare provisions and measures Saeed Alloush who

AMMAN (Petra) -- A team from the Con-Protection sumers Society (CPS) in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) met in Amman Saturday with Health Minister Aref Batayneh and the president of the Jordanian Consumers Society Protection (JCPS) Mohammad Obeidat to discuss the aims and activities of

programme

attend lectures.

The head of the UAE team, Mohammad Jassem, summarised his society's activities and measures for providing protection to consumers.

Batayneh explained his ministry's measures of controlling food supplies entering Jordan. He said such measured include labora-

tory tests conducted on food samples and inspection tours of food storage houses by health authorities. He said that the

ministry maintains

close cooperation with other government departments to ensure that all foodstuffs respond to specifications and standards accepted in Jordan.

In his report, the

role of the JCPS in providing the public with consumer information was also outlined.

Dr. Batayneh was presented with a shield by Mr. Jassem in recognition of his efforts in the area of health. Later the UAE team

called at the Royal Society Scientific (RSS) and met with its vice president, spoke of the development and activities of various departments in the RSS, as well as the technical advice they offer to the Jordanian public and private organisations. Alloush Dr.

expressed the willingness of the RSS to cooperate with the UAE society in matters concerning consumer protection



Aref Batayneh

# Serbs shell Sarajevo at random

(Continued from page 1)

The Serbs on Friday denied shelling the U.N. facili-

Tension over the U.N. mission in former Yugoslavia have soared in recent days with both the government and rebel Serbs lashing out at

the peacekeeping force. The government on Friday said it would no longer deal with the U.N.'s top envoy. after asking the Security

Council to review the peacekeeping mission.

The Serbs meanwhile responded with anger to a German Parliament vote Friday to send fighter jets to Bosnia to protect a rapid reaction force that is supposed to bolster the flagging U.N. mission.

"Their arrival will be tantamount to a military occupation," Bosnian Serb Televsion said, recalling the harsh Nazi invasion of the Balkans. Sending German soldiers is

like putting out a fire with The foreign ministry of Serb-led Yugoslavia on

Saturday also expressed "serious concern" over the German decision.

"It is neither wise nor useful that Germany should again find herself in a military role in the Balkans, even under the wing of the United Nations peace forces," the

ministry statement said. Government and Serb troops battled around the Serb-held southwestern Satajevo suburb of Nedzarici, which borders the U.N.controlled airport.

respective

Fighting was also reported around a village further to the southwest. Bosnian Serbs said three civilians were wounded in Serb-held sub-

U.N. spokesman Major

Guy Vinet said the Serbs may have gained some ground in a western suburb on Friday. U.N. officials, who have been barred from front lines, are limited in their ability to confirm battlefield move-

On Friday, battles were focused around a village just north of Sarajevo, where U.N. officials said it appeared government forces out-side the city had advanced four

kilometres in the past two weeks. In Copenhagen, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry categorically denied that Washington had ever provided arms to the Bosnian

government. "We are not providing weapons to the Bosnian govemment, now or ever," Mr. Perry told reporters on the second day of his visit to

Denmark, denying an allegation by a top French civil servant quoted in the Danish press on Saturday.

'The French official, unnamed, is simply wrong. Either he is misinformed or he is deliberately fabricating a story," said Mr. Perry.

"We have indeed regular discussions, consultations with the Bosnian government. We have an ambassador in Sarajevo, but regarding the question of providing arms to the Bosnians, the answer is categorically no."

The Director and Staff of The Jordan Information Bureau in Washington, D.C. mourn the passing away of their friend

# Mona Saket Rifai

wife of their colleague, Dr. Taleb Rifai. May her soul rest in peace.

Our hearts and thoughts are with the Rifai and Saket families.

# Pacific anti-nuclear protests rage on against France

PAPEETE. Tahiti (R) — The capital of the island of Tahiti was thrown into chaos for a second day as thousands protesting against the resumption of French nuclear tests in the South Pacific blocked its main roads.

French radio said there were also protests in Noumea, the capital of French-controlled New Caledonia off the east coast of Australia, where some 2,000 people demonstrated peace-

fully.
The blockade at Papeete started Thursday as the Rain-bow Warrior II, flagship of the environmental lobby group Greenpeace, sailed

into the port.

Refused permission to dock at the main quay, Quai d'Honneur, the ship remained in the harbour for 24 hours before tying up at a temporary anchorage in the middle of Papeete Harbour.

Greenpeace campaign leader Stephanie Mills said she had been told the ship

KUALA LUMPUR (R) —

At least 20 people were killed

when a landslide swept vehi-

cles off a mountain road in

pouring rain as they drove to

a casino in Malaysia's popu-

lar genting highlands resort, police said Saturday.

trees, boulders and water

swept down a hillside Friday

on the road that winds up to

the casino, 75 kilometres

A wall of mud, uprooted

was not allowed to dock for

security reasons. Ms. Mills and another crew member have been told they will be deported immediately they go ashore, as they are banned persons, having been deported in 1992 after a previous protest voyage.

French authorities have said they may invite Greenpeace representatives to visit the Mururoa Atoll, where France is due to carry out a final series of eight underground nuclear blasts.

But Ms. Mills told a news conference on board the Rainbow Warrior that the group had received no such invitation and if they did it would be refused.

Two previous invitations to visit Mururoa in 1989 and 1992 came to nothing as authorities rejected Green-

peace's conditions. The demonstration organisers estimated that 15,000 Tahitians, had converged on Papeete from all directions

for the start of the protest

among the dead in one of

Malaysia's worst landslide

disasters. Officials said the

death toll stood at 20 by

mid-afternoon on Saturday.

Earlier they said 21 people

Another 23 people were taken to hospital with in-

juries, 16 of them serious,

The search for victims con-

hospital officials said.

Landslide claims 20 lives in Malaysia

"It is a mood of retribution, anger, revenge, outrage and indignation," said Oscar Temaru, leader of the Liberation Front of Polynesia, a French Polynesia's main

independence group. That is what you see today.

A protest delegation delivered a letter, addressed to French President Jacques Chirac, to the French high commissioner demanding a

local referendum on the re-

sumption of testing. Mr. Chirac's approval of eight nuclear tests at Mururoa Atoli between September and May, 1996, has angered Tahitians fearful of radiation contamination. The announcement has also put new vigour into French Polynesia's independence

movement. France is the South Pacific's last colonial power and controls three territories, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and Wallis and Futuna

they were forced to get out

As they were walking

down the road, the first of

two major landslides roared

down, sweeping the driver and his 30 passengers with it,

Some scrambled to safety

or were pulled out by the

rescuers, others were buried

The second slide caused

part of the road to collapse

into a 70-metre-deep (230-

foot-deep) ravine, dragging

along four cars and several

people who had abandoned

their vehicles.

rescue workers said.

Independence movements in France's South Pacific territories have traditionally been linked to nuclear testing, rising at the height of opposition to testing in the 1980s and ebbing when Paris introduced a moratorium on testing in 1992.

Greenpeace said independent anti-nuclear protesters sailed for Mururoa from Roratonga on the Cook Islands Friday on the Bifrost, a Danish ship modelled on a Viking vessel.

They were expected to reach the atoll in about 10

Rainbow Warrior II also hopes to arrive in Mururoa by July 10, the 10th anniversary of the bombing and sinking of the original Rainbow Warrior by French secret agents in New Zea-

Greenpeace hopes to help organise further actions with local anti-nuclear protesters and church leaders over the

postpones

talks with

BEIJING (R) — China

Saturday postponed sche-duled talks with arch-rival

Taiwan, punishing the island

for "a series of wrong-doings" linked to its attempts

to break out of diplomatic

The Association for Rela-

tions Across the Taiwan

Straits has suggested post-

poning routine talks with its

Taiwan counterpart, the

Straits Exchange Founda-

tion, the Xinhua News Agen-

The association and the

foundation are semi-official

organisations that handle bi-

lateral relations to skirt a

decades-old ban by Taipei on

"It is appropriate to post-

pone routine talks between leaders of the two non-gov-

ernmental organisations since

a series of doings by the

Taiwan authorities have sev-

erely damaged the basis for

stabilising and developing

association official was

The association and found-

ation secretaries-general

were scheduled to hold

routine talks once every three

It was the second time in

two weeks that the associa-

tion had put off talks with its

Last month, China post-

poned high-level talks be-

ween the chairmen of the

association and the founda-

Analysts said the Chinese

move to postpone routine

talks was meant as a punish-

ment because Taiwan was

more eager than China to

resolve a series of problems

at the talks, such as fishing

Uneasy relations between

Beijing and Taipei, rivals

since the end of the Chinese

Civil War in 1949, have been

strained by President Lee

Teng-Hui's visit to the United

Beijing, which considers

Taiwan a rebel province, has

sought to isolate the island

diplomatically. Only 29 coun-

tries recognise Taiwan.

States in June.

disputes.

tion, also slated for July.

cross-straits relations.

quoted as saying.

months or in July.

Taiwan counterpart.

official contact.

Taiwan

isolation.

China



U.S. Astronaut Bonnie J. Dunbar (right) Looking on are cosmonant Nikolai M. Budarin shakes hands with Russian Cosmonaut Gen(left) back), Mir-19 flight engineer, and astronady M. Strekalov (left) on board the Mir space station after the crew of the shuttle Atlantis successfully docked with the Mir.

naut Robert L. Gibson (right back), STS-71

### Atlantis-Mir crew celebrate linkup collected over time aboard

space by the turn of the cen-

SPACE CENTRE, Houston have a permanent place in (AP) - The crew of the newly created Atlantis-Mir spaceship exchanged gifts and joined two halves of a medallion to celebrate "the linking of ideas, wills, peo-

But first, officials got into

U.S. Vice President Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, meeting in Moscow this week, congratulated the astronauts and cosmonauts who had crowded into the Mir core module. For the occasion, Russian and American flags were hung as a

backdrop. "It's great to see our two great flags side-by-side there in orbit above the Earth,"

Mr. Gore said. "Two years ago we began to work on this joint project," Mr. Chernomyrdin said. "We now see the results of this work and it is great to see a 220-tonne complex flying in orbit the way you

Joined by a 1-metre-long (3-foot-long) pressurised tunnel in their docking Thursday, the shuttle Atlantis and the space station Mir formed the largest manmade satellite ever to orbit the Earth. It was a forerunner of an interna-

tional outpost expected to

"It is very pleasant to look

at it," said cosmonaut Anatoly Solovyev, who hitched a ride on the shuttle to take command of the permanently

orbiting Mir.
"This docking has laid a foundation for work in this new programme," he said of joint space endeavours planned by the United States and

"It is not only a mechanical docking but also a linking of ideas, wills, peoples in order to form a very great scientific programme," Solovyev said. 'In the final analysis, this is done only to obtain significant results in orbit so humankind on Earth can live better and receive the interesting and great scientific results that are forth-

Later in the day, the serious work of gauging the effects of prolonged space flight began in earnest as astronaut-physician Ellen Baker collected fluid samples from the two Russians and

one American who had been on Mir nearly four months. The vials of blood, Saliva and urine will be in the shuttle freezer for the return to Mir.
The shuttle crew also was

troubleshooting an apparent hardware problem with one of five computers. Mission control said loss of the computer would have no impact on the mission.

In the gift exchange, the space travellers unwrapped presents one by one.

White carnations from Shuttle Commander Robert Gibson for the three men who had been in Mir for 105 days-watches for the Atlantis créw from Vladimir Dezhurov, outgoing commander of the Mir whose 33rd birthday is Friday.

The crews then followed the tradition set during the only other spacecraft merger. the Apollo-Soyuz linkup of 20 years ago, and joined two halves of a medallion the size of a salad plate.

And they ceremoniously put together models of the Atlantis and the Mir into the configuration in which they are flying.

The formal gift exchange ceremony was an anti-climax because the crews had already sealed Thursday's docking with hugs, kisses, handshakes and the traditional Russian salt-and-bread

### Venice begins tourist-only ferries

VENICE, Italy (AP) — Same canal, different boats. That's the plan this summer for residents and tourists in an attempt to ease crowding aboard the barge-like motor vessels used as public transportation. Beginning Saturday, Venetians and visitors will have different boarding points for the boats, or "vaporetti," on two of the busiest routes: To the Rialto Bridge area in the centre of Venice and Piazzale Roma, at the end of the causeway from the mainland. The change, which remains in effect until September, is intended to provide less-crowded boats for residents who rely on the vessels every-day, transportation officials said. Service in other parts of the canal-laced city should not be affected. It is the second recent change in operations on the canals. Earlier this month, four motorpowered gondolas were approved because of waves caused by heavy boat traffic on the main canals.

#### You're a man doctors tell married woman

BELIING (R) — Doctors in China's central Hunan province have told a 26-year-old married woman she is actually a man with a rare genetic disorder, the Xinhua News Agency said Friday. Li sought doctors at the Hunan Medical University earlier this month because she had no menses and could not conceive, the agency said. The doctors discovered that, according to Li's chromo-some make-up, she was actually male, though a missing gene caused her to appear female, it said. Li's is the first such known case in China, it said. Xinhua quoted experts as saying Li's female features were not pronounced and that her uterus resembled that of a five-yearold. Doctors are treating Li with the female hormone Estrogen, it said.

### Surgeon blames botched surgery for having wrong patient

accidentally operate

of the mother of India's top film star because he had the wrong patient. "Though the was a terrible tragedy, it was a result of miscommunication, not careless surgery, Ehud Arbit said in a statement given to New York Newsday by his lawyer, David Hoffman. The surgery last month at Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Centre was on the healthy right temporal brain lobe of Rajeswari Ayyapan, mother of Indian film star Sridevi. Mrs. Ayyappan had flown to the cancer for surgery on a malignant tumour on the opposite temporal lobe. Mrs. Ayyap-pan, 59, later had the correct surgery at New York Hospital, where she is in stable condition and receiving radiation treatments. Dr. Arbit has since been suspended from performing surgery at Memorial Sloan-Kettering, Mr. Hoffman said the mixup started on May 25, when Mrs. Ayyappan first arrived in New York. She had been referred to a colleague of Dr. Arbit who was unable to treat her and sent the case to Dr. Arbit, Mr. Hoffman told Newsday, Historney says Dr. Arbit did not know Mrs. Ayyappan had been referred to him. Shortly before Mr. Ayyappan came to New York, another colleague of Dr. Arbit had asked him to examine diagnostic film of another pa-tient from India, hospital sources told Newsday. The paper said that man's last name is "Gupta." The film showed Mr. Gupta had a malignant brain tumour of the right temporal lobe. But Dr. Arbit advised his colleague to tell Mr. Gupta not to come to New York because the tumour was so far advanced, the paper said. On May 25, when Mrs. Ayyappan and her family went to Dr. Arbit's office at the hospital, someone on the dootor's staff told him "the patient from India" had arrived, Mr. Hoffman told Newsday. Dr. Arbit then met with Mrs. Ayyappan, her

doctor from India and her family. Mr. Hoffman said Dr.

tors: "Are you the (Gupts) family?" "They all nodded

and said, yes, they were.

Mr. Hoffman said, "We just can't explain why they did

Arbit asked his Indian visi-

# Italy launches major mafia crackdown

Earth, along with samples

ROME (R) — Police said illegal money lending. He Bagarella, brother-in-law of Saturday they had arrested a had been sought since De- jailed mafia godfather Salvaleading mafia suspect and were looking for about 150 others in a crackdown on organised crime extending from northern Italy to Sicily.

Natale D'Emanuele, 55, the alleged "financial mind" of the mafia in the eastern Sicilian city of Catania and cousin of jailed boss Be-

nedetto "Nitto" Santapaolo, was arrested in a dawn swoop

on his house outside the city. Police said Mr. D'Emanuele had a stranglehold on cemetery plots in Catania and dealt in arms and drugs trafficking, extortion and cember 1993.

In a separate operation, in the southern mainland region of Calabria, police said they were searching for alleged leading members of the local 'Ndrangheta mafia after magistrates issued 143 arrest warrants.

Police, who called "Operation Galaxy" one of their largest mafia crackdowns ever, said they had made several arrests early Saturday in northern, central and southern Italy.

A week ago police arrested mafia chief Lcoluca jailed mafia godfather Salva-tore "Toto" Riina and alleged to be one of the heirs of cosa nostra.

Mr. Bagarella, who had been at large since 1991, was arrested while driving alone in the outskirts of the Sicilian capital Palermo last Saturday.

Last April, police conducted an anti-mafia blitz across Sicily, arresting 17 alleged mafiosi in Catania

and Palermo and charging 32 iailed mobsters with 17 murders and the bombing of a television celebrity's villa.

### 7 shot in San Francisco's Chinatown

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A gunfight between two groups of youths crupted on the streets of Chinatown Friday evening, injuring seven

people, two seriously.

Shots were fired as one group chased another, Police Cmdr. Dennis Martel said. At least one bystander, a woman four months pregnant, was among the vic-

The shooting began after five or six youths standing on a corner were approached by another group, Cmdr. Martel said. The first group fled, but it was not clear which group opened fire.

A 23-year-old man shot in the abdomen was listed in critical condition and a 16year-old boy shot in the groin was in serious condition at San Francisco General Hos-

Four others were in stable condition at the hospital, including the pregnant woman who had gunshot wounds in her back and feet, said Dr. Steven Hoffmann.

The other person was taken to St. Francis Memorial Hospital.

The shooting came a day after hundreds marched through the nearby Nob Hill neighbourhood to protest gun violence and remember those who died in the city's worst shooting massacre two

years ago.
On July 1, 1993, Gian
Luigi Ferri opened fire at law
offices in a high-rise, killing eight people and wounding six others before killing him-

# U.S. court moves to right on social issues

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Supreme Court, dominated by an aggressive conservative majority, has moved sharply to the right on contentious social issues touching everything from student life to politics and religion. In the 1994-95 term ending

Thursday, the conservatives with just a 5-to-4 majority in string of rulings, cut back historic civil rights protec-tions and lowered the traditional wall of separation between church and state.

The nine-member high court also upheld drug testing of student-athletes and ruled that Congress exceeded its legal authority by banning guns near schools, a decision that may lead to the return of more power to the states on that issue.

Legal experts agreed the term showed a significant shift to the right, but said it remained to be seen if the court has launched a conservative revolution that will

down laws and policies. Georgetown University law Professor Louis Michael

He said the court appeared to take not of the 1994 election in which Republins regained compete control of Congress from President Bill Clinton's Democrats for the first time since

"ideas thought to have court follows up its rulings later. "A lot turns on future appointees and the 1996 elec-

liam Rehnquist, Justices

Stevens, David Souter, Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Stephen Breyer. The latter two were chosen by Mr. Clinton.

said the court's historic commitment to racial justice "took a severe beating" during the term.

The ACLU denounced decisions that set tough new restrictions on federal affirmative action programmes benefiting minorities and on the drawing of voting dis-tricts based on race. It also criticised a school desegregation ruling.

director Steven Shapiro. Conservative court analyst Bruce Fein called it one of the best terms for conservatives in several years, but said, "it is premature to claim

moving slowly to restrict affirmative action rather than abolishing it entirely because of the intense political controversy surrounding the issue and in the hope that Congress might act on its

handed down this term followed the 5-4, conservative-

The court did strike down laws setting term limits for members of Congress, a politically popular idea generally backed by conservative Republicans, and it did preserve the government's ability to protect endangered species in a major victory for environmentalists.

NEW YORK (AP) - A prominent brain surgeon saysa the healthy side of the brain 1559 million annua - Graji

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bhal of 50 in In 1349 (MM) were Maria Mouth I of the party of I ment Departr of these projection Ammark Bella four in Mariant in each of Karak and one project in Madalla and Irbid (

# north of Kuala Lumpur. It tinued Saturday evening more than 24 hours after the buried at least 15 vehicles, police and rescue officials landslide. Some survivors had been A Japanese, a Filipino and travelling in a bus when a minor landslide occurred and a five-month-old baby were

London home-beat "bobby"

Ian Kilburn finds it hot going capital (AFP photo) on point duty, as the tempera-

### Britons sweat as flaming June finally arrives

LONDON (AP) - Railway tracks have buckled. Scottish roads are melting. One sunbather's skirt caught fire. Not everyone would call

temperatures in the high 80s

a heat wave. But to the fairskinned British, more used to drizzle and chill, "flaming June" has arrived with a vengeance. So it's sunburn all round as "mad dogs and Englishmen

go out in the midday sun," in the pithy lyric by Noel Co-"We've got to make the most of it, this could be the only summer we get," said Yorkshirewoman Linda

Beecham as she exposed pale arms to the sun in London's Trafalgar Square Friday, Her 11-year-old son Neil wore a baseball cap with integral. battery operated fan bought on a family vacation in Spain.

There was no chance of a cooling dip in the square's famous fountains, however. They are turned off while the plinth beneath Nelson's column is refurbished. "It's diabolical. As an En-

glishman. I'm embarrassed." said ice cream seller Brian Thomas. "There's nothing for tourists or the locals." In Central London, the temperature at midday Friday was 88 F (31 C), the hottest June day in the capital

since 1976, according to the tearing up the melting tar.

slight burns when metal tas-

skirts to find out what caused In Skipton, Northern Eng-

led in the heat. Our engineers had to replace that rail overnight after

mand was up 300 per cent as gardeners turned on hoses and sprinklers to save their dying plants. Hundreds of homes in Berkshire and Hampshire west of London were without water for four hours Thursday evening as the local water company

London Weather Centre. Other places in the country were expected to top 90 F (32) C) Friday - but cooler weather, with highs in the 70s, was predicted for Saturday.

tures continue to rise in the

The baking heat set in Tuesday. On Thursday, sunbather Kim Bullock, 18, of Witham, east of London, suffered

sles on her skirt heated up in the sun and set the fabric alight.

Local trading inspectors said they were testing similar

the garment to combust. land, railwaymen replaced a section of track which buck-

it cooled down. The rails can get as high as 110F," said a spokesman for British rail. In some areas, water de-

struggled to keep up supplies. In parts of Scotland, council workers covered roads with gravel to prevent cars

### Hair expert ties Simpson to murder

scene LOS ANGELES (R) — Hair similar to Nicole Brown

Simpson's was found on a prosecution claims O.J. Simpson wore when he allegedly killed his ex-wife and her friend, an FBI expert testified Friday. FBI hair and fiber expert

Doug Deedrick also said hair similar to Ronald Goldman's was found on the right-hand glove, discovered at the football great's home the morning after the June 12, 1994, murder. The left glove was found at the murder scene outside Nicole Simpson's luxury condominium, two miles (three-km) away.

Mr. Deedrick also said hair similar to that on Simpson's head was found on Goldman's shirt and hair from limbs was found on Goldman's shirt and in the right glove. Head hair similar to that of Simpson and his exwife was also found on the knit watch cap recovered

from the murder scene, he Simpson, a popular sport-scaster and TV pitchman af-ter his football career, has pleaded not guilty to the mur-

Mr. Deedrick was ordered by Judge Lance Ito not to use the word "match" when describing the similarity between the hairs after the expert had explained that hair and fiber analysis was an inexact science. Instead, Mr. Deedrick limited himself to saying the evidence hair "exhibited the same microscopic characteristics" as known hair samples from the vic-

He said the hair found on the gloves was "cut and torn," indicating it had been "forcibly removed" or ripped from the scalps of the victims. A previous expert witness, Los Angeles Coroner Dr. Lakshmanan Sathayavariswagan, testified that he believed the killer grasped both victims by their hair as he slit

and stabbed their throats. Mr. Deedrick said a "mystery hair" on the right glove could have come from Goldman but definitely did not come from any crime lab workers or detectives in the case, including Mark Fuhrman, whom the defence has accused of planting the glove on Simpson's estate.

There were also dog hairs

on the right-hand glove that

could have come from Nicole

Simpson's akita, who led pas-

sersby to the bodies of the

victims after the murders.

cast aside many liberal prece-dents from the past 50 years. "This term saw a dramatic shift with the conservatives not only exerting more control, but also engaging in judicial activism by striking

Seidman said.

been crackpot a year ago now are in the mainstream," Prof. Scidman said, adding that the key factor will be how the

tion," he said. The conservative faction consists of Chief Justice WilAntonin Scalia, Clarence Thomas and the slightly more moderate Anthony Kennedy and Sandra Day O'Connor — all appointed by Republican presidents.

The more liberal wing is made up of justices John Paul

The liberal American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)

The Supreme Court is re-flecting the mood of the country. It is no longer offering the country a higher moral vision." said ACLU 1-gal

a Super Bowl victory." He said the court may be

Not all the major decisions liberal split.

husiness d economic news the Arabic press

Business

Dabbas: Government to study glary hikes the government is especied to start

considering civil staties next week mplementation of digo it undertook in June popular these salaries at i memoring of July every thairman of the committee at the ler House of Parliament sallee had sent a memthe government out to honour pledges es of the 1995 fiscal admit law, including somise to study the prof increasing civil soleries The Fi ist Committee, Mr will start fol at up the issue soon t at the governmen se ils employees pa as a secondance with inancial equation द्धार्वक mio consideratio zade-conomic indic

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to ed because South Korean emergency workers rescue a young woman from the rubble of the collapsed Sampoong Department Store in

# Grachev survives but faces battle for job

MOSCOW (R) - Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev's close personal ties with President Boris Yeltsin have saved his skin for now but the architect of Moscow's Checkenya campaign may still face a battle to survive.

Mr. Yeltsin sacked four

nan with interior, jer, the Xube. top officials Friday over a bloody hostage taking in the southern town of Budenonth hazara d .novsk but ignored parliamentary deputies' calls for Gen. Grachev to be axed and the minister's own offer to resign over the crisis and the broader campaign in rebel

> "He is still needed by the president," said Sergei Glazyev, head of the opposition Democratic Party of Russia Saturday. He was speaking shortly after the government had survived a no-confidence vote in the State Duma lower house of parliament.

Mr. Yeltsin owes Gen. Grachev, who has risen through the ranks from paratrooper to four-star general, an enormous political debt.

The 47-year-old Afghan

Yeltsin during a failed coup against last Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev in August 1991 and backed him in October 1993, ordering his tanks, albeit after long hesita-tion, to blast Mr. Yeltsin's hardline opponents in the White House parliament

building. Mr. Yeltsin has been keen to court the army, mindful of the influence it has had and could have again on Russian politics.

"The president is afraid to destabilise the army. Gen. Grachev has created a command structure by now and all the top generals were appointed by him," said Alexander Piskunov, deputy head of the Duma Defence Committee.

"If he is replaced by a prominent figure, the command structure would be changed and Yeltsin didn't want that.

But other deputies said time may be running out for Gen. Grachev, whom Mr. Yeltsin has called "the best defence minister Russia or war veteran supported Mr. nathe Soviet Union ever had."

The chaotic Chechenya campaign, in which thousands of people have been killed in more than six months of fighting, is highly unpopular and was one of the key reasons why the Duma passed an earlier vote of no confidence in the government on June 21.

"I think Grachev is doomed but he will be needed as a big sacrifice for Chechenya, not just for Budennovsk. He will be sacked shortly before the presidential elections," said Vyacheslav Nikonov of the centrist Pres Faction.

Reformist former Acting Premier Yegor Gaidar said his Russia's Choice bloc still wanted Gen. Grachev to be sacked. "We think it is necessary

for military reform," he said. But Gen. Grachev is proving to be a great survivor. Even before the Chechen campaign began in December, Gen. Grachev faced calls to quit with analysts saying army morale was low.

The cries intensified last October after Dmitry Kholojournalist, was blown up while investigating corruption in the army and among top Russian officials. Gen. Grachev denied involvement in corruption or Kholodov's

In February, Mr. Yeltsin sacked a deputy defence minister closely associated with Gen. Grachev and speculation grew that the minister would also go.

But he stayed and despite criticism at home and abroad, his troops have crushed most rebel resistance in Chechenya. It was a confident-looking Grachev who called at a military parade marking the end of World War II in Europe for spending on the armed forces to be

Reports emerged around that time that Mr. Yeltsin was about to make Gen. Grachev Russia's first mar-

Many deputies and analysts say Mr. Yeltsin and Gen. Grachev are bound together by the blood spilt in 1993 and by close personal

### dov, a Moscow newspaper friendship. begins political career

MOSCOW (AP) - Alexander Lebed, one of Russia's most popular generals, . headed for Moscow Friday and a new career in politics that could soon blossom into presidential campaign.

Gen. Lebed will take up outles in the Kussia capital as deputy chairman of the Congress of Russian Communities, a party dedicated to protecting the 25 million ethnic Russians in neighbouring countries that were once part of the Soviet

Although the Congress has a distinctly nationalist platform. Gen. Lebed's views on many pressing political issues are still unknown. He calls himself a centrist.

Gen. Lebed resigned his command last month rather than oversee the dismantling of his beloved 14th Army.

His staunch patriotism, plain-spoken manner and reputation as a tough commander have given him broad appeal, especially among Russians longing for a firm hand to impose order on Russia's post-Soviet chaos and

restore national pride. "We have everything: A rich land that covers an eighth of the globe, uncountable natural resources. And we've lived like swine for decades," Gen. Lebed said in

Mayerick Russian general

A career military man not known for his political sophistication, Gen. Lebed said Friday he's considering a run for the presidency in Polls indicate he is already

a television interview Friday,

one of Russia's more popular public figures. Insiders say he is already the candidate-inwaiting most feared by longestablished politicians and a wild card in the electoral

The 45-year-old paratrooper became a national hero three years ago when he took command of the 14th Army in the breakaway Trans-Dniester region of Moldova. a former Soviet republic bordering Hungary, and ended a civil war.

When Defence Minister Pavel Grachev decided to cut the Russian contingent in

Moldova, Gen. Lebed tendered his resignation. He insists a pullout could

reignite the civil war, in part because the 14th's immense arsenal might fall into the wrong hands as troop strength shrinks.

have to load freight trains for 22 months without stopping to remove all the arms and ammunition," he told reporters as he left Tiraspoi, capital of the breakaway region and headquarters of the 14th Army.

The 14th Army consists of about 10,000 troops, most of them conscripted locally by Gen. Lebed despite protests from the Defence Ministry. "I only maintained combat strength," Gen. Lebed in-

The day after Gen. Lebed gave up his command, the ministry ordered the 14th Army to begin returning its hundreds of thousands of weapons and hundreds of thousands of tons of ammunition back to Moscow.

Within the troubled ranks of Russia's post-Soviet army, Gen. Lebed is a hero for speaking out. Everything from the corrupt brass to the handling of the war in Chechenya to the policies of the president has aroused his

He and Gen. Grachev, once old army buddies, became bitter enemies. "There is no room for me in Grachev's army," Gen. Lebed said Friday. "That's for sure.'

For a long time, President Boris Yeltsin backed Gen. Lebed in his sparring with Gen. Grachev — even when Gen. Lebed publicly condemned the president as a 'minus" for Russia.

Some observers speculated that Mr. Yeltsin felt safer with Gen. Lebed, a potential campaign rival, confined within the ranks of the army rather than loose on the political scene. When Mr. Yeltsin

accepted Gen. Lebed's resignation on June 14, the respected daily newspaper Segodnya called it political

# 24 rescued from collapsed S. Korean department store

SEOUL (AP) - Greased cue workers earlier had down with vegetable oil and liquid soap, 24 survivors slithered to safety Saturday, more than 51 hours after being trapped beneath tonnes of debris from a collapsed shopping mail.

As night fell, feverish work continued to save more than two dozen people from three other pockets and search for more survivors. Cranes and other heavy equipment that had been removing heavy concrete slabs were stilled out of fear the shaky rubble could cave in.

A five-story wing of Sampoong Department Store collapsed Thursday, killing at least 113 people, injuring 910 and leaving 246 unaccounted for. About 60 people had been rescued earlier.

 Mostly contract cleaners for the ritzy store, the 24 people who were pulled out by rope, then carried by stretcher or piggyback by rescuers, had survived together in a dressing room in the third basement of the shopping complex.

Once they were detected, it took rescue workers 13 hours to painstakingly clear a hole through the jumble of concrete slabs and iron rods, using electric saws, torches and car jacks and their hands.

steel pipe was sent down to provide fresh air, water and The 10 men and 14 women were all believed to be in

While they waited, a long

their 40s and 50s. One was reported to/slightly injured, but the others said they were largely unscathed. The first two to emerge

were greeted by applause and cheers from hundreds of family members and repor-They were all taken to

waiting ambulances, manyshielding their eyes or covering them with towels against the sudden glare of floodlamps and photographers' strobes. The sound of sirens filled the night.
Officials blamed the disas-

ter on shoddy construction. Four executives of the shopping complex were arrested Saturday night on negligence charges. Police had said they knew the top floor was crumbling hours before the disaster but decided not to close and left without warning anyone. Yonhap TV reported 22

people remained in one pocket in the third basement. Resfound five people alive in two different pockets in the basement of the complex's other wing, which also was heavily ger nearby.

damaged. The Red Cross asked relatives to provide the numbers of pagers or cellular phones that the missing may have been carrying. It hoped that rescuers or sound detectors could hear the devices beeping, even if the owners were unconscious.

Among the missing was Frank Bakes, a 58-year-old power-plant engineer from Oradell, New Jersey, who had gone to the mall just before the collapse to shop. Also missing were an unidentified 35-year-old French businessman and a 45-yearold Taiwanese chef.

Officials had almost abandoned hope of finding more survivors Saturday, after thick plumes of toxic smoke from fires set off by crushed cars in the basement parking lots blanketed the lower reaches of the rubble.

They later discovered that the fire started in the second basement parking lot. The smoke rose through the rubble, raising the possibility of more survivors in the third and fourth basements, officials said.

Tales of dramatic rescues and tragedies filled newspapers and television reports. Funeral services were held Saturday for three victims.

Roh Sung-Eun was to have married Saturday. Distraught, she instead was running from hospital to hospital for word about her missing

"I'm almost crazy," Ms. Roh said, her eyes reddened and her voice cracked after constant sleeplessness.

Ms. Roh, 26, was delighted when her fiance, Kim Sung-Hwan, 30, a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, took her to the department store Thursday to do shopping for their upcoming wedding. As they were about to

leave, Kim asked her to wait a few minutes, saying he forgot to buy something. It was the last time she saw him.

Her father, Roh Jong-Sang, a lawyer, Saturday called each of the guests invited to the wedding to notify them that the ceremony was "just postponed, not cancelled." 'I still believe he will come

back alive," he said, his voice choked with emotion.

Late Friday, a 40-year-old high school teacher was rescued. 27 hours after he was trapped, during which he entrusted a last will to a stran-

"I don't know whether I am alive or dreaming," the teacher. Hong Sung-Tae, smiling, told reporters from a hospital bed. "I experienced what my mother told me when I was young: 'Where there is a will, there is a

Mr. Hong, convinced he was going to die, asked a woman trapped nearby to find two bankbooks in his school desk and hand them to his wife and son. The woman was rescued earlier. Mr. Hong's was one of

about 40 dramatic rescues of bloodied and battered victims Friday. Four people were rescued Saturday morning.

High-tech sound equip-ment donated by the U.S. military arrived from Hawaii and was put to work Saturday, trying to detect other

survivors beneath the tangled debris. Other detectors had come from Japan Friday

evening. Relatives posted notices on hospital walls with photos and descriptions of the mis-

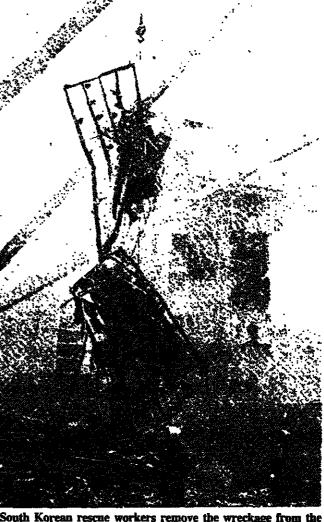
President Kim Young-Sam visited the site and ordered renewed safety checks on high-rises and other large buildings..

"I cannot stop feeling grief," President Kim said,

after visiting the site. Some 40,000 people shopped daily at the bright pink, 556-shop complex, comprised of two wings connected by a three-story lobby and four levels underground. It was built on a slope over a former garbage dump.

It was the latest in a string of accidents attributed to slipshod workmanship.

Two deadly gas explosions this year killed 113 people, and a bridge collapse in Seoul last October killed another



South Korean rescue workers remove the wreckage from the collapsed Sampoong Department Store as they search for survivors (AFP photo)

### Major, Redwood woo doubters in leadership fight

LONDON (R) - John Major and John Redwood Saturday sought to woo the waverers and doubters in the Conservative leadership election as a survey of party supporters gave the British prime minister a resounding vote of

confidence. With only three days to go before members of parliament vote in a secret ballot for the man they want to lead the party and the country, Mr. Redwood denied claims that his low tax, anti-Europe campaign was losing momen-

Mr. Redwood, until last Monday a cabinet minister. has yet to prove that his appeal reaches beyond a small circle of disaffected Conservatives opposed to Britain ever joining a single European currency. But he said Saturday many of his supporters were wary of declaring themselves.

"We are getting a lot of private indications of support from across the party," Mr. Redwood told BBC Radio.

"I think you will find that many more will decide they would like to vote for me but they won't necessarily come out in public in support," he A survey carried out by the

BBC showed Saturday that 93 per cent of the heads of Conservative local party associations backed Mr. Major, while only 6 per cent supported Mr. Redwood.

But a disturbing 40 per cent believed Mr. Major would fail to secure the support of some 100 MPs or

Mr. Major needs the backing of 165 of the 329 Conservative members of parliament and a margin of 50 votes over Mr. Redwood to win outright Tuesday's first secret ballot.

Political commentators say however he would be fatally damaged whatever the formal outcome if more than 100 MPs abstained or voted against him.

Mr. Major, who threw down the election challenge saying he wanted to clear the air after years of in-fighting, has turned tough in his camfor a lead. They are going to get one," he said on Friday. "There will be no tolerance for this nonsense any longer. They know only too well where I am going and I am

People have been asking

inviting them to follow. I think they will," Mr. Major added. But with the Conservatives currently some 30 points be-

hind the opposition Labour Party in opinion polls, Mr. Redwood has appealed directly to MPs who fear for their re-election chances.

His office dispatched leaflets to all MPs Saturday saying "save your seat, save your party and save your country - vote John Red-wood."

# Mandela urges Inkatha, ANC end violence

PIETERMARITZBURG, South Africa (R) - President Nelson Mandela, at the funeral of an old comrade in the Zulu heartland, urged supporters of his African National Congress (ANC) and the rival Inkatha Freedom Party Saturday to end

political violence. "There are too many orphans and widows. Fresh graves litter the hills and valleys. Families are torn apart," Mr. Mandela told several thousand mourners at the funeral of ANC veteran Harry Gwala in Kwazulu-Natal province.

"Now is the time to change all this. Nothing, absolutely nothing, must be spared to ensure that life, limb and property are protected." At least 11,000 people

have been killed in a decade of political fighting between supporters of the ANC and those of the Zulu-based IFP. The IFP, which rules in Kwazulu-Natal, is a junior

partner in Mr. Mandela's

loggerheads with the ANC

over demands for greater

Coalition government but is at

provincial powers. Mr. Mandela said the greatest enemy of the people of Kwazulu-Natai was politic- honest comrade whose ton-

"I call with all humility on members of the ANC and IFP, the church, youth, intellectuals and business. Everybody must now stand up and fight for peace and unity. To the youth, it is your future that is being destroyed. You can't allow political leaders to destroy your future. "Both in the ANC and IFP

up and unite and fight for these things (development)," Mr. Mandela said. About 5,000 people listened as Mr. Mandela paid tribute to Gwala at the heavily-guarded Jan Smuts

are decent people... let us

forget everything and stand

maritzburg. Armed police and soldiers said they were not taking security and mourners were searched for weapons as they

Gwala, a Stalinist and hardline member of ANC and the South African Communist Party, died from heart failure last week at the age of

chances with Mr. Mandela's arrived at the stadium.

Stadium, in the city of Pieter-

"Our ranks have been robbed of the company of a unique revolutionary, an

gue was as sharp as his agile mind," Mr. Mandela said.

Gwala spent two prison terms with Mr. Mandela, 76, on Robben Island for his involvement in the military struggle to topple South Africa's former apartheid govern-"(He) has left a void that

will be difficult to fill," Mr.

Mandela said, referring to

the man dubbed the "lion of the midlands" for his fiery rhetoric and opposition to the old apartheid order and his political foes in Inkatha. He said Gwala was brave and blunt in dealing with the defenders of apartheid, "but he was equally honest and

blunt in raising issues within

the ranks of the liberation movement. Gwala's simple coffin, guarded by several men in the uniform of the ANC's former armed wing, Umkhonto We Sizwe (Spear of the Nation), was decorated with a single wreath of flow-

Later Saturday, President Mandela left for Japan and South Korea on a mission to sell the new South Africa and to assure business and government his post-apartheid rainbow nation was investor-

friendly. Japanese and Korean diplomats expected the visits would strengthen expanding ties, with Japan already South Africa's biggest aid

donor.

In Tokyo, a Japanese official said: "President Mandela's visit will be a symbolic event marking the beginning of Japan's new relations with South Africa and all African

Besides formal state functions, Mr. Mandela - on his third trip to Japan since 1990 - will attend lunches hosted by business leaders in Tokyo and Seoul. He is being accompanied by Trade and Industry Minister Trevor Manuel and Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo.

He will meet Japanese leaders including Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama and Emperor Akihito.

Diplomatic sources said Mr. Mandela was disappointed during his last visit in 1991 at the Japanese government's then refusal to provide funds to the ANC because it said it financially aided governments not poli-

### Rwandan Hutus accuse Kigali of gross violations

NAIROBI (R) - A new party for Rwandan Hutu refugees Saturday accused the. Tutsi-led government in Kigali of gross human rights violations against Hutus and called on the world community to pressure Rwanda into dialogue with it.

But at its first news conference in Kenya since it was set up in April, the Rally for the Return and Democracy in Rwanda (RDR) also ruled out a violent return to the tiny central AFrican nation saying that would plunge Rwanda into more chaos.

"The continuing gross violations of human rights in Rwanda has been confirmed by, among others, human rights groups," RDR Vice President Claver Kanyarushoki told reporters.

"There are a lot of incidents of extra-judicial executions. Arbitrary arrests and overcrowding of prisons and victimisations of Hutus trying to reclaim their property," he added. Mr. Kanyarushoki said

RDR, based in the Zairean region of Goma where many Hutu refugees are, estimated up to 100,000 Hutus had been detained in filthy overcrowded prisons in Rwanda after last year's civil war and genocidal killings.

Aid workers and human rights groups estimate over 40,000 are being held by the Tutsi-dominated Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) army which took power last July after driving the Hutu army into exile in Burundi, Tanza-

nua and Zaire. The government in Kigali says only isolated cases of

killings by its troops have taken place, despite a massacre at Kibeho refugee camp which killed up to 2,000 refugees.
Over two million Hutus

fled between April and July last year, saying they feared being killed in revenge for the genocide of up to one million Tutsis and Hutu moderates by Hutu troops and militiamen. Mr. Kanyarushoki described the situation in re-

fugee camps in Burundi, Tanzania and Zaire as desperate with food rations cut to their lowest while Hutu refugees in Burundi had become victims in the country's Hutu rebel- helping to organise the genolion against the Tutsi army. cide.

The Paris-based politician denied reports that Hutus were rearming and training,

ready for a violent return. "RDR has twice refuted these reports, whose sole aim was to prepare the international community to accept lifting the arms embargo imposed on Kigali by the United Nations in May 1994, he said.

Mr. Kanyarushoki called on the international community to pressure Kigali into talks with the RDR and for it to enact confidence building measures to enable the return of refugees.

Kigali has repeatedly refused to negotiate with what it says are former officials. many of whom it accused of

# Pope calls for greater church role in politics

BRATISLAVA (R) - Pope John Paul, anxious to rebuild Catholic influence in Eastern Europe after 40 years of communism, told Slovak bishops Saturday to prepare for greater church involvement in

politics.

"Due attention must be as soon as they took over Eastern and Central Europe given to (the laity's) training for social and political in-

church's social doctrine," he told the Slovak Bishop's Conference during a visit to Slo-◆vakia. The Communists set about dismantling Catholic power

volvement through the diffu-

sion and study... of the

powerful and since the 1989 fall of communism it has set. about regaining influence throughout the former East

Poland did the church remain

"Just as you helped your people to withstand the attacks on atheistic commun-

Only in the Pope's native concerned to offer adequate means for them to defend themselves against today's enemies," the Pope said.

He told the bishops, who met him in the western pilgrim town of Sastin, that those enemies included religious indifference, consumerism, now you need to be ism and hedonism.

# Jordan Times

Established 1979 حريص تايمر بردية عربية عميليية عميلات تصدير بالاسطيرية عن الترسية السمعيد الاربيية

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### Where multilateralism fits

INTERNATIONAL MARKETS have yet to decide whether to celebrate or mourn the recent agreement between the U.S. and Japan on car and autoparts sales. The concerned international community is still busy digesting the fine print in the agreement struck at the eleventh hour in Geneva last week.

But it is evident that the initial euphoria generated by the accord soon gave way to lukewarm support since the implications for both nations, not to mention other industrial countries, have yet to be totally assessed.

One thing, though, is clear: The ramifications of the deal on the World Trade Organisation (WTO) is anything but comforting. Instead of settling an international trade crisis within WTO, Washington insisted on resolving its dispute with Tokyo on bilateral basis. This by-passing of multilateralism cannot be good news for WTO. There are signs that the precedent set by the Geneva agreement could be repeated by the U.S. in other areas.

International financial issues affecting world banking, so far pursued by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, are being negotiated once again on a country by country basis.

This phenomenon has led many capitals to accuse Washington of using multilateralism only when it suits its purposes and of adopting direct unilateral methods when resort to international law contradicts its interest. The U.S., the superpower of the day and the bearer of the ideals that brought the U.N. into being in the first place, needs to show the rest of the world that adherence to international legitimacy is the order of the day.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour Saturday urged the government to slow down the process of normalisation of ties with Israel and demand that the Israelis show similar flexibility in dealing with Jordan. Taher Adwan said no matter how fast the government's measures are to repeal laws that help speed up normalisation and no matter how skilful it is in applying cosmetics to make the peace treaty more acceptable to us, the Israelis remain adamant in their position and are still fortified behind their ideological. security and racist walls. While thousands of Israelis are allowed to roam through Jordanian archaeological sites and towns. Jordanians have no access to Israel as tourists, and while Israeli ministers offer us smiles as they shake hands with the Arab negotiators, Israeli generals hold tightly on to their security files and stick hard to their positions with regard to security and their dealings with Arabs, said the writer. He said all this is increasing the bitterness in the hearts of the Arab masses and cementing rather than bringing down the psychological barriers between the two

A WRITER in Al Ra'i blamed Sudan for the present explosive situation at its borders with Egypt in the wake of the attempt on the life of the Egyptian President Hosni Muharak. The Sudanese government should have promptly condemned the attack in Addis Ababa so as to defuse the situation and should have pledged to try those who might prove to be involved in the assassination attempt, said Mahmoud Rimawi. He said that the Sudanese leaders realise too well their country's sensitive relations with Egypt and should have acted more logically vis-a-vis this incident so as to ease the situation. He said, Sudan ought to have condemned terrorist actions of any kind. On the other hand, the Egyptians seem to have irrefutable proof of Sudan's involvement in the conspiracy as it revealed the name of the Sudanese national who it accused of having masterminded the attack, continued the writer. He said that the evidence about Sudan's complicity as claimed by Cairo has no doubt inflamed the situation and rekindled the old dispute on the common border at Halayeb district. Expressing regret over the deteriorating situation at the borders, the writer said the two leaderships ought to take every possible measure to avert any military confrontation that would not be of benefit to any side.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Al Fanek

# Joining the WTO is best alternative for Jordan

WHEN IT comes to the existence and functioning of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), better known as General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), we have no choice. The organisation does exist and function, with over 125 member countries responsible for nearly 90 per cent of the world export and import market.

It is not therefore fruitful to try to determine whether

WTO by itself is useful or harmful to Jordan, whether it is designed to favour industrialised countries or developing countries or, for that matter, whether the Kingdom shall benefit or suffer because of its role in international trade. Whether we like it or not, the organisation is there, in full operation, and we should deal with it as given. The only option we have is either to join the organisation or stay

At least two negative results will occur to us shortly, due to the new international arrangement: The erosion of the relative advantage accorded to our exports in the markets of Europe and the United States, in the form of reduced customs taxes, and the expected rise of food prices imported from the industrialised countries due to their commitment under WTO to reduce subsidies to their farmers, which will naturally result in less products and higher prices. It is obvious that irrespective of whether Jordan joins WTO or refrains from accepting its mem-

bership, we cannot escape these negative consequences.

The question then is whether we should join to avail ourselves of the advantages of membership, including opening the world markets for our exports without

discrimination, or stay out and suffer in silence. In other words, we should ask ourselves if we are interested in being part of the international markets or isolate ourselves and withdraw from these markets, and try to achieve self-sufficiency in its narrowest meaning, an objective which even great powers with vast resources failed to achieve. Doing without free exchange of goods and services with the outside world is impossible for a small and open country like Jordan, and is not an option to be considered.

Without GATT/WTO the developing countries would be obliged to compete with the industrialised countries on equal footing and the failure is a foregone conclusion. GATT/WTO granted developing countries certain advantages, such as giving them ten years to adjust with the new regulations and restrictions at ease, against only one year given to the industrialised countries. The developing countries will also be allowed to maintain a higher customs tax on imports than the industrialised countries, to protect their emerging industries.

their emerging industries.

When 90 per cent of the world trade is organised in a certain manner for the mutual interest of partners, the staying behind the international family and the loss of export markets amount to economic and political suicide.

We do not have to determine whether the benefits of joining GATT/WTO are good enough to justify our application for accession to the organisation. What is important is that we have to determine whether we can afford to stay away and bear the consequences of isolation for idealogical considerations.

# The looming crisis over the Tigris- Euphrates waters

By Hugh Pope

beyond its domain.

SINCE APRIL 11, the first stream of brown water has been flowing down a concrete-lined canal from Turkey's gigantic Southeast Anatolian Project (GAP) into the fields of the Harran plain. It is but relative trickle as yet, a mere two per cent of the flow of the River Euphrates. But in time, Turkey plans to take at least a third of the river. And some believe Turkish water projecs could even reduce its flow by half. The Turks are unremitting in their determination to complete the biggest en-gineering project in the his-tory of the republic, despite the cost and constant delays. The consequences to downstream states will be major, to say the least. And a crisis is inevitable if no sense of cooperation can be fostered between the states of the Tigris-Euphrates basin: Principally Turkey, Iraq and Syria.

It is little help to Iraq or Syria that they have been the principal beneficiaries of the two great rivers since antiquity. (Îran also contributes nine per cent of water that flows into the Tigris and a few dry wadis slope into the Euphrates basin from Saudi Arabia). Iraq still occupies 46 per cent of the Tigris-Euphrates basin. Its people are the linear descendants of those who made the world's first towns and its first major irrigation systems. But even the civilisation of Ur collapsed when the Euphrates changed course and their canal systems broke down. The Arab states down-

stream may have a legitimate and strong sense of injury as traditional dependents on the water, but there is not much more that they can do about Turkish projects than Mexico could do when the United States started to divert the Colorado and other rivers. International law makes recommendations but, in the absence of treaties, makes no binding provision about cross-border flows. In theory, Turkey can do what it likes. In practice, the situation is different. During the recent drought, Ankara delayed starting its latest hydroelectric plants by a year to honour its promise to maintain

### The concerns of Syria and

Torkey has promised that it does not plan to take full advantage of the fact that it supplies 70 per cent of the waters of the Tigris-Euphrates basin. The head of the GAP, Oleay Univer, says he expects Turkey eventually to use about 11 cubic kilometres of water, or about a third of the previous annual 31 km<sup>3</sup> flow of the Euphrates. Turkey signed a protocol with Syria in 1987 foreseeing a flow of 500 m<sup>3</sup> per second, i.e. 15.8 km³ a year of half the river's flow. But they have refused to give cast-iron guarantees. Even moderates like Unver say Turkey should have given itself flexibility by promising an annual and not a daily average. But conservatives like President Demirel say

even 500 m<sup>3</sup> per seconds is too much. Such hawks on water policy insist that real guarantees would betray the interests of their grandchidren. Considering possible fluctuations in rainfall and climate — the flow of the Nile, for instance, is sharply lower than it was at the turn of the century — there is a logic in their position.

logic in their position. Regardless of the details of this debate, what will hurt the Arab states downstream is that until now Turkey has made only superficial use of the water. According to a definitive new survey of Middle Eastern water politics of Nurit Kliot, a professor of geography at Haifa Universi-ty in Israel, Turkey currently takes off just 1.8 km<sup>3</sup>. Syria and Iraq use far more, respectively about 5 and 14 km3. Any visitor to the GAP project area cannot doubt the Turks' determination to carry out their plans to make full contro).

Of a current estimated cost of \$20bn, \$12bn has been spent so far. Three of the 22 dams have been completed, inclduing the centre-piece of the project, the massive 1.5 km wide, 169 metre high Ataturk Dam. Six other dams are under construction, and work on two more will start this year. The twin 26 km Urfa Tunnels started feeding 20 m<sup>3</sup> per second of water to the Harran plain on April 11. The figure will soon rise to 30 m' per second. The tunnels eventual capacity is 323 m<sup>3</sup>ps, although long canals remain to be built. So far only 30,000 hectares of the 1.7m ha planned for irrigation are anywhere near taking the water. But the Turks have broken the back of the work to allow crops to be doubled or tripled on the already bounteous plains of the old Fertile Cres-

Security problems may be draining Turkish coffers. but

they seem unlikely to hinder the project's progress, particularly in the main western area around the Ataturk Dam and Urfa. Military pressure over the past years has pushed the Kurdish Labour's Party (PKK) back into the mountains to the east. A few soldiers guard the dams against attack, but Urfa has all the trappings of a boom town, even if many of the new arrivals are potential and actual Kurdish nationalists after being forced to flee the fighting. The population balance will probably become predominantly Kurdish in the long run, and Turkey has a long way to go to making Kurds feel like respected and loyal citizens. For now, however, most of the poasants of the plain near Urfa are ethnic Arabs who have little sympathy with the Kurdish cause.

The downstream states would be hiding their heads in the sand if they thought that the problem over the competition for water is going to go away, or that they could avoid coming to some kind of terms with Turkey. preferably cooperative. Iraq is the main consumer. But since the first major Turkish and Syrian dams started filling up in 1974, its situation has changed. In 1975, Iraq mobilised its troops on the Syrian border and forced both Syria and Turkey to release water to cool the tension. But Irag's war with Iran gave Turkey the possibility to go ahead with the Ataturk Dam project. The Gulf war has further weakened Baghdad's ability to do anything to threaten Turkey, diploma tically or militarily.

### Damascus' options curtailed

The position with Syria is also different now. As the Ataturk Dam started to rise from its foundations, Damascus began to support the

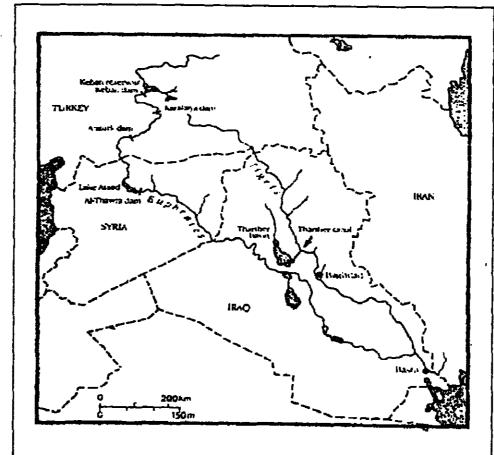
PKK in 1984. In parallel with late Prime Minister Ozal's promise to allow 500 cu mps downstream in 1987, Syria agreed to move the rebei camps away from the Turkish border. Recently there have been more reports of Syria clamp-downs on the rebels. But diplomats say that has more to do with Damascus' desire to be removed from the U.S.' "terrorist list" than any real desire to cooperate with Ankara. As the Middle East peace process trundles on, Moscow's absence and the imperative not to upset Washington will curtail Damascus' range of options.

- Luckily, good rains in recent years have done much to relieve the sense of crisis

during the drought years of 1989-90, which, coupled with Turkey's filling of the Ataturk Dam, resulted in major blackouts in northern Syria and water shortages all the way downstream. But none of this changes facts like Israeli Professor Kliot's calculation that Turkey, Syria and Iraq are currently planning irrigation and hydroelectric projects that would consume 41 km<sup>3</sup>, about a third more than the whole flow of the Euphrates alone.

The case for cooperation on optimal use of this limited resource is further sharpened by the fact that by the time the water reaches Iraq, at least half will have been degraded by exposure to agricultural salts and chemicals. There is also the question of wastage through seepage and evaporation. Currently, the figure for wastage is about 10 per cent, but it could rise to 20 per cent by the time all the dams are finished. If an allround agreement cannot be reached, dammed-up lakes totalling the size of more than two years' flow of the Nile will eventually lie shrinking in the scorching Middle East-

Middle East International



# Bosnian U.N. mission limps on to uncertain future

By Sean Maguire Reuter

SARAJEVO — The U.N. mission is Bosnia will limp along until the latest peace initiative is exhausted but will probably fight shy of forceful action to restore its credibility.

The gloomy forecast for the future of peacekeeping in Bosnia from officials and diplomats in Sarajevo underlines Bosnian government and Croat despair that the West will once again weer from decisive action against warring Serbs.

The government is

already suspicious that the new rapid reaction force reinforcing the U.N. mission will avoid confrontation and achieve little. It wonders if the 10,000 extra troops should come at all.

The United States fears the heavily armed back-up

The United States fears the heavily armed back-up will not stop Bosnian Serbs blocking aid deliveries and making a mockery of U.N. resolutions supposed to protect civilians from attack.

attack.

"We are hearing public words of robustness but private caution from governments on the use of this force," said one U.N. official who said its despatch was a panic response to the hostage taking of U.N. troops by Bosnian Serbs last month.

As planners at U.N. headquarters in Zagreb struggle to find a role for the force acceptable to Britain and France, whose troops make up its bulk, officials in Sarajevo have been told to prop up the U.N. mission in Bosnia for as long as they can.

"We have instructions not to inflame the situation, to find ways to resupply ourselves, to find ways of getting aid through without confronting the Serbs," said one senior U.N. source. "We've been asked to keep things going as best we can."

That means ignoring deadly artillery bombardments of "safe areas" like the Bosnian capital and the near total collapse of the aid operation in the face of Bosnian Serb obstacles. The U.N. has the authority to use force to oppose both.

To resupply itself the U.N. has had to resort to sneaking trucks along a government controlled mountain road into the city by night, bypassing a Bosnian Serb blockade.

"We've been getting some supplies in by Mount Igman so putting off the time when we need to take difficult decisions," said U.N. spokesman Lieutenant-Colonel Gary Coward.
"We've staved off the

end of the month," the spokesman said, referring to earlier U.N. pledges that resolute action might follow if separatist Serbs failed to allow adequate access for aid convoys by the end of June.

Deals dictated to the U.N. by the Serbs have brought some aid and supplies for U.N. troops into the vulnerable eastern Muslim enclaves, buying a little time before the mission reaches crisis, officials said. The U.N. High Commis-

reaches crisis, officials said.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees is sending its special envoy Anne-Willem Bijeveldt back to the Bosnian Serb "capital" of Pale to ask again for freedom of movement for convoys into Sarajevo.

His less trip to Pale three

His last trip to Pale three weeks ago, hailed as a success, resulted in one 10-truck convoy arriving in the

Senior U.N. officials in Zagreb say keeping the mission limping along as civilian deaths mount in Sarajevo and the once welcoming Bosnian government's contempt for the U.N. grows should allow new European Union envoy Carl Bildt time to work.

U.N. military officials

U.N. military officials closer to the daily reality doubt that Ms. Bildt can persuade the Bosnian Serbs to lift their siege of Sarajevo voluntarity as his EU masters have asked him

"Bildt's task is a very long shot, but it should keep things going till mid-July," said a U.N. analyst. "After that the rapid reaction force should be ready and we'll see if the troopcontributing nations are prepared to allow us to use the military options available to do the job."

# Democrats face tough times, rocky future

By Alan Elsner
Reuter

Reuter
WASHINGTON — What is

happening to the Democrats

— America's incredible shrinking party?

Since President Bill Clinton took offers in 1993, 1995

Since President Bill Clinton took office in 1993, 105 Democratic elected officials have switched parties — a flow that has turned into a torrent since the Republicans won control of Congress last November.

The latest to defect was Congressman Greg Laughlin of Texas, who led 18 other elected officials from his state into the welcoming arms of the Republicans on Monday.

The second member of the House of Representatives to

House of Representatives to change parties this year, Mr. Laughlin joins two senators and scores of state representatives who have switched, and several more House Democrats are said to be preparing to join the stampede soon, "With each new switcher,

it becomes increasingly clear that the Democratic Party has become too extreme for the values of many of its members and elected officials," said an elated Haley Barbour, the Republican Party chairman.

For many party switchers,

For many party switchers, it is simply a question of survival in an increasingly conservative political environment. "My constituency requires me to change my affiliation from the Democratic to the Republican Party if I am 10 best represent the conservative principles on which I ran." Mr. Laughlin said.

Last November's congressional elections were a disaster for the Democrats, who had ruled the Senate for the past eight years and the House for 40. Most analysts

now give them scant chance of recapturing a majority in either House of Congress in 1996, no matter what happens in the presidential elec-

At least five Democratic senators are retiring and several House incumbents are also expected to quit, many in the south where Republicans increasingly dominate. Without incumbents to defend their seats, the Democrats could be in trouble.

Democrats in Congress have so far proved powerless to stop a tide of Republican legislation this year that has changed the terms of the American political debate and is radically reshaping the welfare state built up in the past 60 years.

"The Democrats... represent an activist view of government. They can't clearly convey what they stand for because they have historically stood for government," said Andrew Kohut, a pollster with the Times Mirror group.

Nebraska Senator Bob Kerrey, who heads the Democrats' 1996 senatorial campaign committee, recently delivered an address entided: "Do Democrats stand for anything any more?" in which he said, "we Democrats cannot content ourselves simply with not being Republicans."

But that is exactly what most Democrats have done. Democrats have cast themselves as defenders of children and the old, of the weak and the poor and of the environment against what they term "Republican excesses."

They were encouraged by recent polls that show the public becoming increasingly uneasy at Republican plans to balance the budget within seven years through cuts inwelfare and in Medicare

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### **Egypt rules out attack on Sudan**

Continued from page 1) Ethiopian security men, were involved in the plot.

Without citing proof, Mr. Mubarak has specifically named Sheikh Hassan Tourabi, the Islamic leader widely regarded as the power behind Sudan's government, as the mastermind of the attempt. Sudarisse leaders have de-

nied any role, blaming it instead on Egyptian militants waging a three-year Islamic revolt against the Cairo government. More than 800 peoole have died in the insurgency although it has diminished in recent months.

Dr. Baz's remark did little to soften the rhetoric in Khartoum.

A van with a loudspeaker rambled through the Sudanese capital's dusty streets and urged residents to gather Monday for a demonstration against the "arrogance of Mubarak."

"We will make Halaib a graveyard of the invaders," the loudspeaker said, referring to a disputed border

Meanwhile, the leader of Sudan's government, Lieutenant-General Omar Al Bashir, promised to give a gun to any civilian who could carry one to repulse any Egyptian attack. He promsed not to "relinquish an in Khartoum."

### Sudan takes Egypt to U.N.

(Continued from page 1)

The remaining police from the station fled to Halaib town, "which is currently under siege by Egyptian military forces."

The Egyptian army also rounded up 30 policemen and after disarming them forced them to move from their observation posts to Abu Ramad, further south in the border zone.

It made no mention of a third reported fatality, a soldier killed on Wednesday in another incident. Egypt has confirmed the deaths of the policemen but not the soldier, and claims the Sudanese fired first.

Sudan underlined in the complaint that Halaib, which is controlled inflitarily by Egypt but claimed by both nations, "is Sudanese

inch" of Halaib.

"Sudan is facing a great conspiracy from Hosni Mubarak," Gen. Bashir told a rally Friday

Sudan's army, vastly in-ferior to Egypt's, is tied up fighting a long-running war against southern rebels.

Since Gen. Bashir's 1989 coup, relations with Egypt have never been good. The two have sparred repeatedly over Halaib, and Egypt has accused Sudan of training and financing militants.

Sudan, named by Washington as a state sponsoring "ter-rorism," has criticised Egypt for giving refuge to Sudanese

Both countries have sought to use the assassination attempt and border skirmishes to whip up anger and bolster sagging popularity. Al Ingaz Al Watani, a

Sudanese government news-paper, said soldiers would make a pledge of "holy war and martyrdom" to confront what it called the Egyptian provocations.

In Egypt, a front-page editorial Saturday in Al Akhbar, a leading government-owned newspaper, said the assassination. attempt justified "a strong military strike to overthrow the corrupt terrorist regime

# territory because its

It called on the United Nations to urge Egypt to withdraw its military and administrative personnel from the zone and start negotiations to end the longrunning dispute over the

> Ethiopia said meanwhile its security forces shot dead three gumnen on the ron since their failed attempt to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak. State-run Ethioplan tele-

vision said the shoot-out, in which two Ethiopian security men were wounded, took place in an Addis Ababa suburb. All three of the dead, suspected of mount-ing the folied attack on Mr. Mubarak oa Monday, were of Arab origin, the televi-

# Paris school of oriental languages celebrates its bicentenary

By Claudine Canetti

WHERE CAN one learn Aramaic, Bêche-de-mer. Bisayan, Dari, Hausa, In-uktitut, Lifu, Mandingo, Moré, Najualt, Peul, Sorbian and Tigrinya, as well as Chinese, Russian, Kurdish, Estonian, Tahitian or Tibetan? The mover is at the "Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales" (INALCO) (National Insti-tute of Oriental Languages and Civilisations), better known as "Langues O" which is a familiar abbreviation of its original name, the "Ecole des Langues Orientales" (School of Oriental

"Langues O", which is a breeding ground for diplomats, teachers, researchers, historians and business executives and where 81 languages are taught today, this year celebrate the bicentenary of its creation in 1795. In fact, the distant origins of this venerable establishment go back to the 17th century, in the reign of Louis XIV. At the time, there was interest in establishing relations between France and the countries of the Levant without going through local interme-diaries. Hence Colbert created an "Ecole des Jeunes de Langues" for the purpose of training young French people as interpreters. During the Revolution, the Convention took up this idea and created the "Ecole Spéciale des Lan-gues Orientales" "for the purpose of teaching living oriental languages acknow-ledged as being useful for politics and trade". A few months earlier, the same convention had created three other prestigious French schools, the "Ecole Polytechnique", the "Conservatoire National des Arts et Métiers" and the "Ecole Normale Supérieure"

Originally, the mission of ne "Ecole des Langues Orientales", which was set up in the Bibliothéque Nationale library, was to teach three "Muslim" languages — Ara-

also offers the possibility of advanced training in the scibic, Turkish and Persian. The number of students and teaching posts grew so rapidences of language and autothat the whole school matic language processing acshortly had to move to its cessible to non-specialists of historical headquarters in rue oriental languages. de Lille, on the edge of the

Research concerns all of Latin Quarter. The number the school's areas of teaching of languages taught increased from about twenty in 1914 to nearly forty just after World War II and double that half a - languages, linguistics, literature, history, geogra-phy, contemporary civilisation, economics, history of century later. Today, "Langues O", which, in 1971 became INALCO and is spread art, sociology, ethnology and new information technologies. It is carried out in about twenty centres, known as "geographical" when they deal with a particular area for instance Balkan or Chinesse studies), or "thematic" or "transversal" such as places and offering a for comparative poetics or tremendous diversity of oral literature.

Courses in continuing education are also offered to meet the specific needs of firms or of private indi-

On the score of international relations, which represent one of the school's main vocations, INALCO takes part in the various university exchange programmes of the European Union — Erasmus (for the development of student and teacher mobility in higher education establishments), Lingua (to improve knowledge of the languages used in the member countries of the Union) and Tempus (which aims to stimulate relations with Central and Eastern Europe). Moreover, it has signed 75 bilateral cooperation agreements with various university establishments all over the world.

The "Langues O" library has 430,000 books and 7,076 different periodicals in 70 languages, including a re-markable heritage of ancient works (incunabula, manuscripts, etc.).

Its famous students include the former president of the Council of State Edgar Faure (who studied Russian), the psychoanalyst Jacques Lacan (Chinese), the director Antoine Vitez (Russian), the ethnologist and explorer Theodore Monod (literal Arabic), Prince Henri de Montpezat, the husband of the Queen of Denmark (Vietnamese and Japanese) and a host of French ambassadors.

The languages taught be-long to all the families which exist in the world — Indo-European, Caucasian. Altaic, Uralian, Sino-Tibetan, Thai, Afro-Asian,

Kordofan, Austroasiatic, Dravidian, Austronesian and Amerindian. Some of them, such as Chinese, are used by millions of people. Others, such as Judeo-Spanish, Judeo-Arabic or Romany are only spoken in scattered communities and can no longer he located on a map. Others

Nilo-Saharian, Niger- still, such as Ouallou in the Pacific, are now only spoken by a handful of men.

The school's bicentenary celebrations include going down the Mekong, with stopovers in China, Burma, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam.

L'Actualite en France.



### Enough is enough — King

Aπ

tackled at a Palestinian-

Arab-Israeli level and a

spiritual level that would

ensure that all the children

of Abraham have their

Arab East Jerusalem

rights in the Holy City.

(Continued from page 1)

we, Jordanians and Israelis, are looking after it without the presence of U.N. observers or peacekeeping

"It has recovered to Jordan its lands that were under occupation. (It has also restored) our rights in terms of water in the context of Jordan and Israel, and much has been done in that direction. Many of the barriers have disappeared, and people move between the two countries, and I believe that in time, what will be achieved is peace between people.

"We have a peace treaty, but now we are in the process of peacebuilding. So sometimes I feel that maybe it is a fact that we are moving too slowly, in terms of all the years that we have lost in the past, to give our people the opportunity and the chance to live the kind of life that we never had. But, at the same time, I believe that we have covered enough to be proud of so

"Of course on the Palestinian-Israeli track we are fully supportive of the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the people of Palestine, and its leadership. We certainly do whatever we can through the opportunities presented now through peace between Jordan and Israel to help all concerned to move towards the establishment of peace. "I hope that the Syrian

track and thereafter the Lebanese track, which is connected to it, will also move soon and that what we have achieved will be a cornerstone in comprehensive peace in this region."

The King expressed hope that the delays in arriving at an agreement between the alestine Liberation Organisation and Israel on expanding self-rule to the West Bank "will be temporary."

neace between not only "I hope that negotiations Palestinians and Israelis. will continue directly but also Arabs and Israelis between the two parties as well. This is something I concerned with the support have tried to put across as of all of us to ensure that much as I could, and this, the Palestinians recover in my belief, is the best their rights on their way to resolve it. legitimate soil. I believe the "But, in any event, I subject is really paramount initially as one of the steps

would not like to step on any one's toes, nor to speak of something that is outside that will lead to the recovery of Palestinian my jurisdiction. At this rights on all of the soil stage there is an agreement which is subject to question between Israel and the PLO and I hope that something and the Palestinian people will happen rather soon." and their leadership to óverwhelming discuss Jerusalem last. I. majority of people support will do whatever I can to

the peace process despite the help in that process..." The King expressed hope "terrible" acts of violence by people opposed to peace that the renewed on both sides, the King negotiations between Syria and Israel would "lead to The Monarch stressed the progress and the resolution need for rapid progress in of that dimension of the the peace negotiations. problem as well.

"I hope very very much "because, unless that is achieved those who belong indeed that the more direct to the peace camp will have contact between the two their spirits dampened by parties...the greater the the lack of progress and the opportunities will be to dangers are tremendous." remove the barriers of fear On Arab East Jerusalem suspicion and. the King reaffirmed that the eventually maybe to arrive Holy City is part of the at a solution. But territories that Israel essentially any problem occupied in the 1967 war. between two parties has to But in order to achieve a be resolved between them just and durable settlement although the world has a that would consolidate and great interest, the U.S. in particular, and I hope they maintain peace, the King said, the issue had to be will continue to help..."

The King reiterated that any discussion of future relations between Jordan and Palestine should come only when "people are (under conditions) of freedom... democracy, pluralism, respect for human rights....

"should be under the domain of not any particular side, "Then there is a chance for them to decide what kind of but should belong to all believers in God, and should a relationship we should be above the sovereignty of have," said the King. any nation," the King said. Describing Jordanians and "Beyond that, Western Palestinians as closest brethren, the King added

Jerusalem has been a de facto capital of Israel (and) that "these relations will Eastern Jerusalem should be always be very strong and the capital of the very special, but anyone who suggests that there Palestinian people...." should be a certain plan or a "If that ever happens we shall see the beginnings of certain formula at this the coming together of the stage will be probably followers of the three great causing more harm and monotheistic religions and damage to these relations we shall see also Jerusalem between two peoples who

becoming a symbol of mare so close together and who are almost members of the same family than anything else.

among five teaching centres

in Paris and the near suburbs

with more than 10,000 stu-

dents, is a unique establish-

ment in the world, receiving

students from many different

courses (more than 1,500).

been assigned to it are vast.

First of all, it has to "provide

initial and continuing training

in the languages and civilisa-

tions of Asia, Africa, Eastern

Europe, Oceania and the

Amerindian peoples and in the geography, history, in-stitutions and political, eco-nomic and social life of the

countries concerned". We

can note the particularly broad concept of "Oriental"

- in fact, it simply means

non-western languages and

The school also has "to

develop research in these

different areas, in particular

in relation with other French

and foreign research orga-

nisations; to contribute to

knowledge of the countries

concerned by spreading their scientific productions; and to

foster university and cultural

exchanges and cooperation

between France and the

But its functions are not

limited to dispensing know-

ledge and culture and to

being a means of entering the

diplomatic corps. It has also set up professional training

schemes by combining lan-

guage teaching with more technical courses such as in-

ternational trade, interna-

tional relations and inter-

cultural communication. It

countries in question."

The missions which have

"The Palestinians ought to have their say...and we respect that and support it and therefore there is nothing we can say except to help them as much as we

motive whatsoever." The King said the immediate question was of Palestinians recovering their rights on Palestinian soil under the leadership of the PLO. "I hope they will succeed in achieving that,"

he said. Asked on suggestions that free elections could be a threat to some countries in the region which are not used to having democracy. the King said:

"Certainly I do not view it as a threat. I view the absence of democracy as a threat. As long as people do not feel that they do not have rights in shaping their future and then there is more of a threat and I hope that what is in Jordan will be a positive example to many others in our region..... On the crisis in Algeria,

the King said:

"I believe that what we see at times, which causes us great pain. is a reflection of a situation of despair of people. It has an effect definitely in terms of the economic dimension, whenever that is not addressed in terms of the needs of people, in terms of the quality of life of people. But there is much that is done under the cover of the so-called fundamentalism which has nothing to do with our religion or our faith nor our beliefs.

"I feel more and more compelled to do whatever I can to defend Islam in its true face, its true religion and true message. So much abuse has occurred of late. I believe what we are seeing is politicised religion, not true religion, not true faith in many cases.... We hope that the answer will be greater democracy and Gaza on Saturday.

greater freedom and greater. respect for human rights so that people will create the answer in the face of extremism everywhere.

"Fundamentalism as it is called is not confined to the Muslim World. It is something that we have seen in different parts of the world. Let us hope that a dialogue between followers of the three great monotheistic religions could help in putting an end to this...

Asked whether there was fundamentalism in Jordan, the King replied, "not to

any troubling point." 'We have a dialogue," he added. "I believe that the overwhelming majority of the people are the guarantee that (there will be no) extremism in the future."

In reply to another question on economic development, the King said Jordan had seen some concrete results and "we have been promised more." He pointed out that

Amman would be hosting the Middle East and North Africa economic summit in Jordan hopes to present "the world and those who

wish to join us the

the radio said.

The leaflet warned that the group would retaliate for this and 20 settlers were detained,

In Gaza City, the militant group Hamas charged Saturday that Palestinian police interrogators shaved off the hair and beards of three of its iailed leaders in an attempt to humiliate them. The chief prosecutor.

Khaled Kidra, denied the allegations, saying he saw the three men in fail Friday with hair and beards intact. Hamas leaders Mahmoud

Zahar, Ahmad Bahar and Salama Safadi were detained earlier this week after a Hamas activist blew himself up in a failed attack on Israeli troops in Gaza. '(They) have been tor-

tured and insulted. Their hair has been shaved off and their beards plucked out," Hamas said in a leaflet distributed in possibilities and the potential of being partners in building the future of this entire region in the context of peace," he said. "I hope that in any event within the next two, three, four, five years at the most, this country would have made such strides in changing the quality of life of its people... to answer all those sceptics once and for all as for the merits of peace and security or the continuation of the darkness that threatens everybody in this entire region - which was what was happening over so many years. Peace obviously has to bring about with it a change in the quality of life of people and I hope that it will soon be possible."

"I expect our many friends in Europe to be our partners," said the King. We are close together and they are close to us, and we are proud of the relations that exist between us and we would like to see them develop and grow... "In terms of stability in

this region, I believe, this is important to Europe as it is important to us. Progress will enable us to complement each other in every way."

### Teenager shot dead in Nablus (Continued from page 1)

troops later cleared the road

ugly crime" and urged police to release the de-'The bullets of our fighters

will not besitate to punish collaborators, irrespective of their identity or their ranks," the leaflet said. "If the authorities do not

free our sheikhs soon, the angry masses will not hesitate to storm the jails and free the detainees by force.' A Hamas activist said police sources informed the

three days ago to humiliate the leader. "Shaving beards is a crime. It's more humiliating than beatings," said the Hamas activist, who works at the group's newspaper, Al Watan. He spoke on condi-

tion of anonymity.

theatres. Last week, 214 filmmakers and actors published group that Dr. Zahar's hair and beard were shaved off

an open letter criticising gov-

caviar, struggles on home front TEHRAN (AFP) - Iranian ernment "interference" in cinema has won laurels the movie industry and call-

Iranian cinema, like

struggles to overcome financial problems and free itself from government censorship, ideology and commercial tri-

Since the 1979 Islamic revolution, the Iranian film industry has gained remarkable success on the international scene, winning dozens of awards in film festivals.

A young Iranian director, Jafar Panahi, won the international critics' prize at the Cannes film festival last month for "The White Balloon. Last year, directors Abbas

Kiarostami and Ebrahim Mokhtari earned much acclaim for their movies 'Under the Olive Tree" and "Zinat," with the former nominated for the Cannes festival's top prize, the Gol-But while artistic movies have earned international

dience of intellectuals at home and are rarely chosen for screening by the author-"Our intellectual cinema is like Persian caviar. There's a strong taste for it abroad, but hardly any at home. It's a

commodity only for export,

veteran actor Manuchehr

praise, they have a small au-

Sadeghpur said. Political and religious hardliners in Iran are often distrustful of art movies because they lack progovernment and pro-religion propaganda. Such productions often face political obstacles, including arbitrary

The government maintains a close watch over the industry, from script writing to production to distribution as well as in the screening of movies at the country's 400

abroad but is looking for a ing on the authorities to ease

In a separate move in April, another group of independent film-makers urged the government to stop meddling in the process of filmmaking or risk losing private

investors. "Our cinema must choose between art, commerce and the government," a criticallyacclaimed movie director told

AFP. Besides from politics, the industry has also been hampered by financial problems. After subsidising movie

production during the first decade after the revolution, the cash-strapped government in 1992 stopped allocating funds for the industry apart from the occasional war and historical movie. The absence of funding has led to a sharp drop in overall

productions with only 40

movies expected to be made this year compared to 70 in An increase of up to 400 per cent in costs has also contributed to the fall in production — especially of art movies which have been the

The director of the guild of theatre owners, Mohammad Khorram, argued that movies made in Iran "these days are of an inferior quality" compared to the past and that the industry was threatened with bankruptcy.

hardest hit for their failure to

attract large audiences and in-

Even war and ideological movies with strong political and religious themes have been facing difficulties because of reduced government support and a fall in ticket

But commercial movies and crowd-pleasers have less of a problem since they avoid taboo or controversial subiects and strictly follow guidelines set by the political and religious authorities.

JORDAN TIMES TEL: 667171

# to be formed in Gaza Strip

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Jordanian and Palestinian businessmen have got together to launch the second Palestinian commercial bank to be formed in autonomous Gaza Strip. bank officials said Saturday.

They said the Jerusalem Development and Investment Bank, which will have an authorised capital of \$20 million, is expected to be operational by November

The bank, which has been licensed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), has already formed its board of directors headed by Nizar Jardaneh, who also heads the Jordan Investment and Finance Bank in Amman.

Other members on the board are Mohammad Murad, vice-chairman, and Adel Hijjawi, Mohammad Kamhawi, Nabil Barakat, Ibrahim Abdul Hadi, Nabil Sarraf, Raouf Abu Jaber. Walid Al Hamad and Omar Al Alami.

Some of the directors are Jordanian businessmen while others hail from the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

It will be the second Palestinian bank to be licensed by the PNA, the bank officials noted. The first was the Palestinian Development Bank.

The officials said the Jerusalem Bank for Development and Investment, which is the first to place shares for public nian territories, will be based in the Gaza Strip and will seek to branch out throughout the West Bank.

"We have reached an advanced stage of preparations and we hope to be operational by early November." said an official of the bank.

We have only called in 25 per cent of the authorised capital and we intend to call the rest after we start operations and assess the situation," the official told the

'We will operate like any other bank, but there is a close focus on developing the Palestinian economy," said the official.

We are interested in developing tourism, agriculture, industry, housing and trade," he said. "We also hope to play a major role in developing the infrastructure of the Palestinian expatri-

The Jerusalem Development and Investment Bank will also contribute to efforts to set up a Palestinian stock market and offer "highly technical and specialised banking services including project studies," said the offi-

Another key service the bank intends to offer is to act as managers for stock issues by Palestinian companies.

One of our distinctions is that we intend to reinvest all the capital in the Palestinian territories and we will be the first to do so there," said the

### Iran oil minister says oil earnings increase

currency oil export earnings are currently above the level forecast in the state budget. oil Minister Gholamteza Aghazadeh has told the official IRNA news agency. Mr. Aghazadeh said the price of Iranian crude oil had

averaged \$17.00 a barrel. earning Iran \$500 million more than forecast in the current Iranian budget which began on March 21.

The budget for the Iranian year 1374 was based on an oil price of \$15.00 a barrel which would generate \$13.5 billion in oil revenue.

IRNA also quoted the minister as saying the most important achievements of last week's OPEC meeting in Vienna was the preservation of the oil group's 1995 production ceiling of 24.52 million barrels per day (bdp).

This provided the chance for finding alternative cus-tomers for Iran's oil. IRNA quoted Mr. Aghazadeh as

Peanuts

saving.

U.S. oil companies are the dollar.

HERE'S THE WORLD FAMOUS

SERGEANT OF THE FOREIGN

LEGION LEADING HIS TROOPS

THE RESERVE OF THE PROPERTY OF

ACROSS THE DESERT ..

NICOSIA (R) - Iran's hard now banned from buying Iranian crude after an executive order from U.S. president Bill Clinton which barred trade and investment between the two countries.

American oil firms were major purchasers of Iranian crude in the lead up to Mr. Clinton's trade ban and accounted for roughly a quarer of Iran's total crude exports of 2.6 million bpd.

Iranian oil officials have stressed that the embargo will not hamper their oil marketing policy but western oil traders expect that the state National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) will come under pressure to cut its

prices to find new customers. Iran's green-back oil earnings have also been undermined by the weakness of the dollar in foreign exchange

Mr. Aghazadeh said OPEC's secretariat is to carry out some studies to compensate for the depreciation of

AS THEY MARCH UNDER

A STIRRING FIGHT SONE

A MOONLIT SKY THEY SING

# Development bank | Saudi budget deficit-may persist despite higher oil prices

ABU DHABI (AFP) -Saudi Arabia could suffer from another budget deficit this year as oil prices might reverse an upward trend in the second half due to a sharp drop in seasonal demand, expens have said.

Prices have climbed by more than 15 per cent this year to reach nearly \$2 above the average price of around \$15.53 in 1994 due to high demand in the first quarter and OPEC's relative compliance with quotas.

But they could go down again as crude demand in the third quarter is projected to barrels per day (b'd) below OPEC's official production ceiling of 24.52 million b/d. according to the group.

"OPEC is already producing above its ceiling and the decline in seasonal demand will combine with output increases by independent producers to put pressure on oil prices again." a Saudi-based economist told AFP.

Despite the gains in the first half, I think the market is still uncertain and prices could weaken at any time. Such gains would be offset by the price decline and this will maintain or even widen the Saudi deficit," he said. Saudi Arabia, the world's

ter, has assumed a minimum nil price of \$14 to \$15 a barrel for its 1995 budget. As it apparently did not

top oil producer and expor-

anticipate any major price rise, it trimmed its expendi-

ture by around 6.2 per cent to 150 billion rivals (\$40 billion) from 160 billion riyals (\$42.6 billion) in 1994.

This slashed the projected deficit to around \$4 billion from \$10.6 billion pushing it down to nearly 3.3 per cent of the projected gross domestic product (GDP) in 1995 from 8.8 per cent in 1994.

Crude oil sales provide the bulk of the kingdom's national income and the rest comes from the export of petroleum products and non-oil items as well as the recentlyintroduced hikes on water, electricity and telephone

According to the Saudi National Commercial Bank, earnings from the sale of petroleum products are pro-

jected to reach \$2.13 billion in 1995, boosting the total oil exports to \$24,8 billion.

The remaining revenue would come from taxes and non-oil exports.

'The Saudi budget deficit could be sharply lower or even disappear this year only if oil prices maintained their current level and the government does not increase actual spending," a Saudi banker 'The kingdom earned

higher than it had projected in the first half but the question is: What trend the will take in the econd half?" he asked. The oil ministers of the

12-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), decided to

keep the output ceiling until the end of 1995, leaving quotas untouched.

This is because a projected increase in world demand for 1995 of nearly one million b/d had been met by Britain. Norway and other non-OPEC producers.

But the ministers had also tried to tackle the problem of slight quota violations by some members as this could affect the market when world demand slackens in the sum-

Independent estimates showed such violations boosted OPEC's actual production by the nearly 500,000 b/d in May.

Barring unexpected developments. 1995 is unlikely to be worse than last year.

MADRID (AFP) - Spain

took over the rotating six-

month presidency of the

Spain to advance ties with

Mideast during EU presidency

when oil prices dipped to their lowest level in five years. This means that if the Saudi budget deficit maintained its: projected level, it remains low compared with previous years." a Saudi economist said.

Saudi Arabia, which produces around eight million bld and controls more than a quarter of the world's crude. began suffering from a deficit in its budget and balance of payments in the mid-1980s. when prices were receding.

The budget shortfall hit a record \$33.6 billion in 1991 due to Riyadh's large cash contributions to a U.S.-led multinational coalition which ejected Iraqi invasion forces

setting up the controversial

customs union with Turkey

and strengthen ties with Mal-

### Kuwait limits building, food

subsidies KUWAIT (R) - Kuwait has decided to limit subsidies on house-building materials and basic foods as part of a drive to cut its soaring budget de-

A trade and industry ministry official said the government has set a 30 per cent ceiling on subsidies of cement and steel used in house building and will set a 30 per cent cap on subsidies of basic foods from July 1.

The effect of the limits will be to freeze the total cost of both groups of the subsidies at around 12 million dinars (\$40 million), the official said in brief remarks to Reuters.

The cost of the subsidies. many of which had been running at around 50 per cent. has risen to 12 million dinars from around four million (\$13 million) a decade ago. he said. The measures are part of

an attempt by government to reduce costs to help bridge a budget deficit running at around 1.5 billion dinars (\$5 billion) or a fifth of national wealth as measured by gross domestic product. Newspapers said the effect

cost of subsidised steel to 75 iars (\$250) a tonne from 58 dinars (\$193). The building subsidy is applied to steel and cement used by Kuwaitis building their homes. There is a limit on the amount of subsidised

material they may obtain but

of the change was to raise the

Kuwaitis say the permitted amount is enough to build a small home The official said the new ceiling for subsidies on basic foods such as rice and milk would also be set at 30 per cent. Only Kuwaitis may buy subsidised basic foods,

# U.S. determined to broker free trade zone in 10 years

DENVER, Colorado (AFP)
- The United States has renewed a pledge to negoti-ate within 10 years a huge pan-American free trade zone, stretching from Alaska to Argentina and grouping more than 700 millon con-

Mickey Kantor, U.S. trade representative, said the objective of the meeting, attended by most finance ministers in the western hemisphere, was to jump start the programmes needed to bring about the "ambitious" goal of breaking down trade barriers among nations in the region.

The idea of a Free Trade Area of the Americas (FTAA) was first conceived at December's Summit of the Americas in Miami, though no timetable was set during that historic meeting.

Because of a serious economic crisis that has struck discussed at the next ministe-

BUCHAREST (R) — Leaders of the Black Sea states

met on Friday to try to im-

prove economic cooperation

but were unable to ignore

deep tensions in their region.

In a non-binding declara-

tion at the end of a summit,

the leaders from 11 states of

the Black Sea Economic

Cooperation Group referred

to Nagornò-Karabakh, which

overshadow their efforts to

"They shared the same

opinion on the importance of

settling existing problems which have a negative impact

on the climate of economic

cooperation," the communi-

Most of the rest of the

document was equally broad.

talking of "needs" and

"efforts" to control regional

problems like uranium smug-

gling, drug trafficking and

SOME ENCHANTED

EVENING 15 NOT A

stirring fight song!

work together.

que said.

Mexico since then, many delegation members stressed that a new oush for the mammoth free trade would give Latin America a badly needed boost in morale.

In a final declaration, the 34 ministers promised the aims of the Americas trade zone would be compatible with World Trade Organisation terms and would not seek to erect trade barriers to any other countries.

The declaration said the countries agreed to set up seven working groups focus-ing on issues including market access, investments and subsidies and which would report regularly to deputy trade ministers of the 34

The groups would outline concrete steps to take towards setting up the free trade zone of the Americas and further plans would be

more basic economic hurdles

like road transport and ener-

But despite the vague lan-guage and lack of concrete

action diplomats say the sum-

mit achieved its aim of at

least keeping many countries

often in conflict talking to

man Demirel said the orga-

but offered a start.
"The (BSEC) organisation

is only three years old. If you consider that the European

Union is 37 years old and there are still problems ...

I'm very happy with the con-ference," Mr. Demirel told

Reuters television in an inter-

which hosted the founding

summit three years ago, wanted to control the group-

ing.
"If we say that we (Tur-

He denied that Turkey.

Turkey's President Suley-

Black Sea leaders seek closer ties

gy supplies.

each other.

rial meeting scheduled for March 1996 in Colombia. Mr. Kantor stressed the importance of involving the private sector in the negotiations, a fact underscored by a meeting of business execu-tives in Denver at the conclusion of the conference of finance ministers.

Speaking before a group of American, Brazilian and Argentine businessmen, Mr. Kantor said the zone could not succeed without private industry, which he called the engine of growth in the western hemisphere.

Economic figures show how trade liberalisation in Latin America these last few the U.S. economy.

American exports in this zone went from \$30 billion in the mid-1980s to more than \$92 billion in 1994 - the equivalent of the export total to Western Europe.

key) are the locomotive, the

other people will be the cars, and it won't work," he said.

... Black Sea members in-

clude Romania, Russia,

Ukraine, Turkey, Georgia.

Moldova, Bulgaria, Greece,

Azerbaijan, Armenia and Albania. The EU, Austria,

Italy and Poland are among

Regional disputes inevit-

Azeri President Yaydar

Aliyev raised the status of

talks over the disputed

Nagorno-Karabakh region

Albanian Deputy Prime

the neighbouring rump

Bulgarian President

Zhelyu Zhelev also brought

up the war in the former

Yugoslavia, saying sanctions were "catastrophic."

By Glasbergen

Minister Dylber Vrioni raised

the plight of ethnic Albanians

with Armenia.

Yugoslavia.

# years has proved a boom to

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) If you want support for a new interest, see your friends early today if you can and allow for any

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) A worldly affair can be handled well this morning, but later today a disgruntled partner can pose a

em, if you permit. GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take time for mediation this morning, then forget duli chores about the house and tonight you make fine new contact.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Do whatever will please your closest tie this morning, and later today steer clear of expensive

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Early today plan the evening's fun and then don't involve yourself in monetary matters so

SCORFIO: (October 23 to November 21) Your best bet is to stay at home with your family. Show that you are clever and devoted as well. Avoid driving, if possible.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Forget worries and plans for the days ahead.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) If you steer clear of a bigwig who has prejudices, you can easily see how to become more successful today.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Meditate and be more in tune with the truth. Be content at home this evening and have a delightful time with your loved one.

Birthstone of July: Ruby - Tiger's Eye

# THE BETTER HALF,



"A little bird told me you need a hug. He said you might also enjoy a worm and some suet.

### THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME one letter to each square, to form NOPLY YANON WHAT A NEW TUCSOC OWNER DOES BEFORE HE SAILS HIS BOAT RUGLAF form the surprise unswer, as suggested by the above cartoon. Jumbles: SQUAB VIXEN BUTANE BEACON

Offen dug up when the garden needs tending -- AN EXCUSE

### Mutt'n'Jeff MUTT, MY STOCK TOCK ANOTHER OWN BIG JUMP STOCK?

**#94** IT AT 82-MUCH? TEN SHARES ಗ್ ಽ ೮೯ **≸9**40 TO 94 OF BLOOP NOW!

WILL

**Andy Capp** 



#### community, following the disappointing French stint. But just as domestic considerations, including a presignificant. idential election, cramped France's style, Spain is, affected by political scandals affecting the government of Prime Minister Felipe Gon-November, which will bring

Madrid's priorities for the EU for the rest of this year include economic revival to create new jobs and ease the passage to a single European currency planned for 1999.

tax harmonisation, freer trade and more transparency in the financial markets. On foreign policy Spain hopes to develop a strategy for bringing about EU membership of countries in eastern and central Europe.

while involving non-EU states in the Mediterranean basin more closely.

ta and Cyprus, other candi-dates for EU membership. European Union Saturday with an ambitious agenda of Part of the aim is to combat projects for the 15-member the rise of Islamic fundamentalism in North Africa by aiding the development of

hose countries where it is This approach will be consolidated at a Euro-Mediterranean conference to be staged in Barcelona in

together leaders of 27 states. Spain also intends to strengthen links with Latin America with a view to fostering democracy and open economies, and boosting trade links with the Mercosur economic grouping of Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay.

For EU residents, Madrid intends to strengthen the internal "borderless" security zone with a European police agency and develop the idea of European citizenship, while 15 meetings are planned during Spain's tenure of This will include negotiating new agreements on European relations with Egypt, tal conference which will de-lsrael, Jordan and Morocco, cide where Europe goes next.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1995

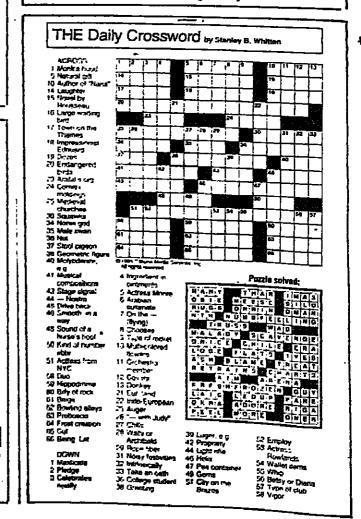
LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Being with individuals who awaken your mentality is wise this morning, but later avoid a tense condition

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You find better ways of getting chores completed early today, then be off to visit older individuals you like.

that the afternoon can be enjoyable

concentrate on whatever is of a constructive nature and make fine

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You can have fine ideas coursing through your mind so make the most of them, and forget that outsider who is busy.



wsiness

wbas: ment study hikes

or inment is ned to start Sering Civil sinext week ratinon of work in June latesq to الله عادة على المارة على Stollaly every of the games at the 20 Parliament

ार्ट्रभाः स्थारं the idien a memge government mour pledges the House's was fiscal ancluding . was sady the traing civil The Fi-France, Mr.

a all start fol-Emilia soon to 2. Parement Courses Pay giante with a seed one mon gar-selection ್ರ ೧೯೮೨ ಇರುವi⊈ no rise in

int Aremanient and invitary generap-, <sub>Stant</sub>e the - seven per gardent The -a con give ig graide: 2**ddi**≁. is the nationals  $\epsilon_{\rm CC}$  as a part of  $V^{\pm}$ which eachie it immesim case

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Dany ami serintriet abo**ut** League 1904. 😉 🕸 Ministry i≥: mated that ंक्ष कोई उन्हां है <sup>lo</sup>tiler annually - 🚾 in ine Jordan

Beldagen [1] and

<sup>કે,ક</sup>ાલ્લાં! ભં **th** the place process ande Jordania The Investor and Mr. Kilas Glader dunian e belordan Valle Diffin up tro the He said th

the or unnullin isong real cita hach has caus Gai prices in mo Rugdom's are: ‡ suòlishment myeer, such ង្ក្រ<sub>មា</sub> upsurges he especially had Med Amman said

allo added that thie market pl inmonte the same as "Fmancial Mark \* the Teal es the summer E Mr. 25 exper the the marks  $r^{\frac{1}{2}}$  and  $r^{\frac{1}{2}}$  and  $r^{\frac{1}{2}}$ all challes. may adrop ,

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Men Departme

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A review

of economic news

from the Arabic press

Dabbas:

Government

to study

salary hikes

he government is

servants' salaries next week

in implementation of

pledges it undertook in June

1994 when it agreed to

reconsider these salaries at

the beginning of July every

year. Chairman of the

financial committee at the

Lower House of Parliament

Hashem Al Dabbas said the

committee had sent a mem-

orandum to the government

asking it to honour pledges

it made during the House's

debate of the 1995 fiscal

budget draft law, including

a promise to study the

prospect of increasing civil

servants' salaries. The Fi-

nance Committee, Mr.

Dabbas said, will start fol-

lowing up the issue soon to

ensure that the government

grants its employees pay

raises in accordance with a

sound financial equation

that takes into consideration

the multi-economic indica-

tors, including the rise in

Meanwhile, government

sources have linked any pay

rises to the House's ap-

proval of increasing the

sales tax from seven per

cent to 10 per cent. The

government cannot give

pay raises and shoulder addi-

tional financial burdens:

without having other rev-

enues that would enable it

to cover these raises in case

they were approved, the

sources said. The last pay

raise received by civil ser-

vants, who number about

of Finance estimated that

the pay raise would cost it

ID 58-59 million annually

\*\* Land prices in the Jordan

Valley rose between 10 and

20 times as a result of the

Middle East peace process,

President of the Jordanian

Real Estate Investors

Society Mohammad Kheir

Al Kilani said. Mr. Kilani

said the price of a dunum of

land in the Jordan Valley

rose to JD 10,000, up from

JD 50-100. He said the

possibility of annulling laws banning real estate

sale to Israelis has caused

rises in land prices in most

of the Kingdom's areas. Also the establishment of

tourism projects, such as hotels, led to upsurges in

land prices, especially in the Sports City and Medina

streets in Amman, said Mr.

Kilani, who added that the

real estate market is

governed by rumours --

"much the same as the

Amman Financial Market."

He said the real estate

market this summer will

not be as "hot" as expected, noting that the market is suffering of recession which caused investors in the

market to drop their

expected profits from 15-20

per cent to around 10 per

cent (Al Aswaq).

(Al Aswaq).

437,000. was in June 1994. At the time, the Ministry

living expenses.

expected to start

considering civil

, 1995

vill please

plan the natters so

nake fine

and forget

\*\*A total of '50 industrial projects with a capital of JD 4,349,000 were registered last month with the Ministry of Industry and Trade. A study prepared by the ministry's Industrial Development Department said 31 of these projects are based in Amman, six in Balqa, four in Mafraq, three -. in each of Karak and Zarqa Sistema Sistema Statema and one project in each of Madaba and Irbid (Al Ra'i).

# Gulf oil income surges in first half of 1995

improvement in oil prices due to unusual discipline by OPEC boosted the earnings of Gulf Arab states by almost 6 billion in the first half of 1995, bankers said on Satur-

Oil prices could end the year with the same average as the first half due to an expected recovery in demand in the last quarter and this would help the coffers of the six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

"Oil prices could weaken in the third quarter due to lower seasonal demand but they will likely recover in the last quarter due to a surge in demand. This means the price gains could be maintained," one banker said.

Oil prices averaged around 17 dollars in the first half of 1995 compared with 14.5 dollars in the first half of 1994. With the GCC's production remaining almost unchanged at nearly 13 million barrelsf per day (bpd), the price rise of 2.5 dollars means an extra revenue of around 5.9 billion dollars in the first half of

ABU DHABI (AFP) -

More than 100 stockbrokers

and officials from Arab finan-

cial markets are to meet in

Beirut this week to discuss

development of their stock

The Arab Bourses' Union

(ABU) is sponsoring the July

5-7 meeting, expected to draw 71 stockbrokers and 31

market officials from 10 Arab

states, stockbroker Zuhair

Klaswani said here Friday.

The ABU secretary gener-

al, Saafak Al Rukaibi, said it

was the first meeting of its

kind in the Arab World and it

coincides with economic re-

forms in several regional

"The meeting is important

given the growing role of the Arab stock markets, which

are expected to finance de-

velopment projects in the re-

gion in the light of new eco-

priority to the private sector

and encouraging the creation of more official stock mar-

He said the conference

"Such policies are giving

exchanges.

countries.

nomic policies.

kets," he said.

**Financial** 

If oil prices stay at their current level through the year, then revenues could exceed \$80 compared with around \$70 billion in 1994. when prices averaged nearly

The 17-dollar average will be the highest since crude price reached 18.33 dollars in 1992 and topped 19 dollars in 1991 due to the Gulf war.

The improvement in oil prices this year was attributed to higher world demand, complains by most OPEC members with their output quotas and Iraq's refusal to accept United Nations terms to return to the oil market.

The situation is in contrast with the first quarter of 1994, when prices plunged to \$13 due to overproduction, a surge in global stockpiles and growing speculation about Iraq's resumption of crude exports.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) - produced nearly 13.2 million bpd in the first half and they depend heavily on oil exports to finance their budget. The

ment of brokerage services,

the role of markets in reforms

and possible creation of a brokers' association.

The meeting will bring together stockbroker and

financial officials from Saudi

arabia, Qatar, Bahrain,

Kuwait, Oman, Jordan,

Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and

Lebanon, as well as the Un-

More than 1,100 banks and

companies are listed in Arab

stock markets but only 10

regional states have formal

ited Arab Emirates.

Arab stockbrokers to hold

first meeting in Beirut

deteriroation of crude price over the past decade has badly hurt their once flush coffers and turnel large surpluses in their budgets chronic deficits.

The six members have projected earningsl at around \$59 billion for 1995 but the figure does not include individual incomes in the UAE. which groups Abu Dhabi with Dubai and five other sheikhdoms.

While federal earnings were projected at \$4.6 biltion, the UAE's total oil income is expected to reach around \$13.6 billion in 1995 at an average price of \$17 and OPEC-decreed production of

2.16 million bpd.
"Oil prices will likely be lower in the third quarter as demand will go down by more than 700,000 bpd. But I think they will rebound as demand will largely recover in the fourth quarter due to a surge in consumption in the northern hemisphere," an oil expert said.

Experts said Gulf revenues could have sharply risen if oil producers outside the 12nation organisation of pertroleum exporting countries
— mostly North Sea producers Britain and Norway had not raised output to face a growth in globall demand of around 1.2 million bpd in

Such an increase has forced OPEC to maintain its official output ceiling of 24.52 mil-lion bdp until the end of 1995, keeping the level unchanged since September 1993 and depressing OPEC's market share.

But the cartel ministers have voiced optimism prices will remain stable until the end of the year as OPEC members are producing near demand, which is projected at around 24.9 million bpd in

Bankers said that if oil prices maintained their current level this year, the GCC's income would rise to its highest level since mid

"Oil prices were higher in 1992 and 1991 but Kuwait's production was negligible due to the damage to its energy sector during the Iraqi occupation," a Gulf oil ex-

BRUSSELS (R) — Moroccan Prime Minister Abdellanew EU-Morocco fisheries agreement, a European Commission spokesman said

stocks exchanges.
The Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) has sought to encourage the remaining Arab League members to set up floors as part of its new policies to

push for reforms to repair regional economies.

Most Arab economies are hit by debt, unemployment, inflation, and budget and ba-

lance of payment deficits.

The AFM, the main financial institution in the region, has set up a data base to link stock markets in member states. Officials said six bourses had been linked to the base while other markets are expected to follow suit.

would cover cooperation among stockbrokers, obstacles facing them, develop-

Jordan Times



Catro Ati Lacional in International I	dilidir batta	4
S. Dollar in International R	Mar Mes	<del>,</del>
Ситтепсу	New York Close Der 19/6/95	Tokyo Close - Imar 30/6/95
terting Pound	1.5990	1.5950
Denische Mark	1.3795	1.3815
iwiss Franc	1.1466	1.1485
reach Franc	4.8405	4.8415
spanese Yen	84.48	84.65
Suropean Curreny Unit	1.3358	1.3333
USD Per STG		

USD Per STG  ** European Opening in 2,00 a.m. GMT  Entrocurromacy Enterest Rotes Darte: 30/6/1995				
Currency Interest Re	MITH.		6 MTHS	
U.S. Dollar	5.81	5.75	5.62	5,56
Sterling Pound	6-43	6.68	18.6	7.25
Deutsche Mark	4.37	4.31	4.31	4,43
Swiss Franc	3.00	3.00	3.00	3.12
French Franc.	0.98	6.85	16.65	6.51
Japanese Yen	1.06	1.00	0.93	0.87
European Currency Unit	6.12	6.12	6.21	6.34_

Precious I	<b>Retais</b>			Date: 3	0/6/199
Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm°	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	384,75	7.60	Silver	5.05	0.120

	. Date	111/1777
Ситтепсу	Bid	()Øer
U.S. Dollar	0.6920	0.6940
Sterfing Pound	1.1026	1,1081
Deutsche Mark	0.5007.	0.5032
Swiss Franc	0.6019	0.6849
French Franc	0.1428	0.1435
Japanese Yen?	0.8166	0,8207
Dutch Guilder	0.4467	0.4489
Swedish Kroaz	474417	144111
Italian Lira*	0.0424	0.0426
Beigian Franc		*******

Cheffron views				
Ppr 100	<u> </u>			
Other Currencies	Date: 1/7/1995 -			
Сигтепсу	Bid	Offer		
Bahraini Dinar	1.8190	1.8320		
Lebanese Lira°	0,841935	0.043000		
Sandi Riyal	0.1842	9.1859		
Kewaiti Disar	2,3000	2.3620		
Qatari Riyal	0.1889	0.1902		
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2160		
Omnai Riyal	1.7880	1.7970		
LIAE Dirham	0.1878	. 1890		
Greek Drachma*	0,2765	0.3500		
Cypriol Pound	1_4875	1.5715		

### Moroccan leader to hold fish talks in Brussels

tif Filali will hold talks in Brussels on Thursday to try and end the impasse over a

on Friday.
Mr. Filali is expected to put forward fresh proposals during meetings with European Commission President Jacques Santer and Fisheries Commissioner Emma Boni-

"It's not a proper negotiation but it's good news he's coming because it means he has something fresh to say." the spokesman said, adding the EU hoped it would be possible to fix a date for a sixth and final round of nego-

The EU and Morocco have been at loggerheads over Moroccan demands for sharp cuts in quotas and increased landings of catches in Morocan ports.

Fishermen in the Spanish port of Algeciras lifted an eight-week blockade of Moroccan imports on Thursday, saying they hoped the move would lead Rabat to curb its demands for sharp cuts in EU fishing quotas.

AMMIAN FINANCIAL MARKET
BOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHORISANI
TELEPHONE: 660170 / 663170
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 01/07/1995



COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF		PREV. CLOSING
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INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	7250	18560	2.560 2.560
THE HOUSING BANK	5950	48475	222.000 221.000 2.560 2.560 8.010 8.200
JORDAN KUWAIT BANK	T ( 03	4243	5.030 Y.DIO
JORDAN GULF BANK	6275	8149 13366	1.320 1.290 3.610 3.770
JORDAN ISLAMIC BANK	3516	1,5255	3.610
BUSINESS BANK JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	25U 50##	8149 13255 998 21689	4.350 4.300
JORDAR INVESTMENT & FIRANCE BANK AMMAN BANK POR INVESTMENT	42367	48852	1.160 1.130
PHILADELPHIA INVESTMENT BANK.	42367 16600	48853 28225	1.160 1.130 1.730 1.690
BANKS SECTOR	89389	272729	INDEX NUMBER: 182.75 CHANGE : -0.322
MIDDLE EAST 'INSURANCE		102500	
ARABIAN SEAS INSURANCE	500	960 1050	3.380 3.500 1.900 1.920
	250	1050	4.200 4.200
JERUSALEM IMSURANCE YARMOUK INSURANCE & REINSURANCE ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE THE NATIONAL ABILA INSURANCE	8200	25420	3.100 3.100 2.600 2.600
ARAB LIFE & ACCIDENT INSURANCE	950	2470	2.600 2.600 3.050 3.100
THE NATIONAL ARLIA INSURANCE AL-HISR AL-ARABI INSURANCE	1794	5552	3.100 3.100 2.600 2.600 3.050 3.100 4.600 4.370
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MATICMAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	3750	9033	2.400 2.340
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	2000	2360	1.180 1.180
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE MOTELS	1131	2517	2.270 2.210
JORDANIAM ELECTRIC POWER IBBID DISTRICT ELECTRICITY ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LIMES MATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER UNITED NIDDLE EAST & COMMODORE SOTELS ARAB INTER. FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION JORDANIAM EXPAIRIATES INVESTMENT BOLDING	1450	4798	1.200 - 1.200
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THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & ACRICHISTRAY	487	1669	3.470 3.420
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUPACTURING	3020	15467	5.180 5.130
THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING	100	264	2.640 2.640
THE PUBLIC MINING	450	1463	3.200 3.250
DAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	500	` 4038	8.100 8.050
ARAB INVESTMENT & INERNATIONAL TRADE	6750	5063	.760 .750
AKAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY	2150	12603	5.950 5.900 -500 -490
APAR PARTE COMMENCE .	2250	28969	.300 .490 / 1.410 1.410
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UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES	10600	34662	3.290 3.270
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JORDAN NEW CABLE COMPANY	3350	6351	1.910 1.900
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES JOSDAN PHOSPEATE NINES THE ARAB POTASE JORDAN PEROLEUM REFIRARY THE INDUSTRIAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING THE JORDAN PIPES MANUFACTURING THE FUBLIC MINIEG DAR AL DAMA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT ARAB INVESTMENT & INEMNATIONAL TRADE ARAB ALUMINIUM INDUSTRY LIVESTOCK & POULTRY ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING UNIVERSAL CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCE/JINCO UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES JORDAN INDUSTRIES & MATCE/JINCO UNIVERSAL MODERN INDUSTRIES JORDAN INDUSTRIES & CO. JORDAN HEW CARLE COMPANY			INDEX NUMBER: 232.92 CHANGE : -1.032
CRAED TOTAL		772780	INDRX NUMBER: 157.90 CHANGE : -0.61%
	<u> </u>		سمال كالمستقان والكالان والمستقان

# ORDAN MARKET PLACE



Al Rabia area 3 B.R.- heated swimming pool. Furnished or unfurnished.

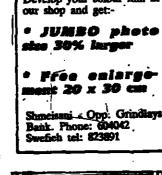
:Abdoun Real Estate **810609 - 810605** 



All Suites Hotel **863944** - 816690



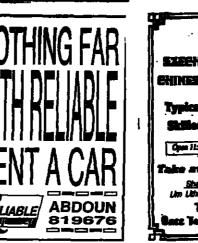








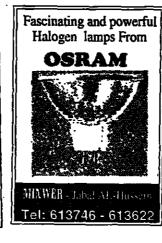












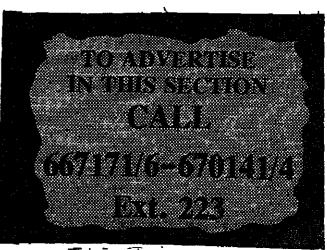


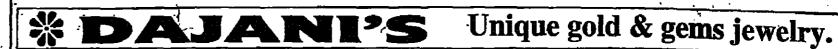














Yugoslavia's Vlade Divac (up) tries to stop an undentified opponent during their European Basketball Championship match (AFP photo)

# Yugoslavia crush France to reach semifinals

players, is hoping to add to its

The Greeks slowly rallied

- 1987 title, when it also hosted

to overcome an early nine-

point Spanish lead. Forward

Christodoulou, who finished

the game 5-for-7 from the

3-point range, hit three

straight 3-pointers at one

stretch late in the half.

the tournament.

ATHENS (AP) — Paced by their NBA stars, Lithuania, Croatia and Yugoslavia joined host Greece in the semifinals of the European Championship Friday and clinched berths at next Summer's Olympic Games in

Toni Kukoc led Croatia over Italy, 71-61, Arvydas Sabonis powered Lithuania past Russia, 82-71, and Vlade

Panayiotis Fassoulas and Fanis Christodoulou combined for 37 points and 20 rebounds to pace Greece over Spain, 66-64.

Kukoc, of the Chicago Bulls, had a game-high 24 points and 10 rebounds despite suffering a cut on his right hand as Croatia broke down Italy's stiff resistance in the second half.

The four slots from Europe for the games went to the four semifinalists here and Russia, silver medalists at the 1993 European Championship and the 1994 World Championship, now will miss the Olympics in Atlanta. "It's a tragedy for Russian basketball," said Russian coach Sergei Belov.

Croatia and Lithuania will clash in the semifinals, while Yugoslavia takes on Greece.

which it beat in the preliminarv round. Greece, the only team in the last four without NBA

Centre Fassoulas, who colto a 104-86 victory over EUROPEAN BASKETBALL France. lected his 4th foul with 7:30

left, returned to key a 10point Greek run that decided the game. Christodoulou first sank a 3-pointer for a 54-51 lead, Fassoulas than scored the next two points, coverted a three-point play and sank a hook shot to make it 61-51 with 3:10 left.

The Greeks, roared on by boisterous, capacity crowd of 20,000 at the Maroussi Olympic hall, held off Spain's

Fassoulas had 20 points, Christodoulou had 17, and each had 10 rebounds. Alberto Herreros scored 15 for

Croatia, the 1992 Olympic silver medalist behind the U.S. Dream Team, ran into unexpected trouble against a determined Italian team.

Kukoc suffered a cut between his third and fourth finger on the right hand early in the second half, went to

**GOREN BRIDGE** 

LEND A RELPING HAND

Opening lead. And of war Make life as eary as possible for partner We've said that often, but cannot repeat it enough That's the secret to winning defense. West's jump to two spaces was, by partnership agreement, intermediate, showing a good ant and the equivalent of an opening had. Afraid that a bid of three justic would amind competitive. North close instead to jump to game, which ended

the surtion.

West cashed the king and ace of spades, then continued with the queen. East discarded a diamond, declarer ruffed and led a low trump. When West's ace appeared, South

Opening lead: King of •

with Grar Sharif A Tannay Hirsch

decisive 58-47 Croatian lead. "When Toni came back into the game, we won it," said Croatia's coach Aleksandar Petrovic.

"I think I hit someone's

the locker to receive four

stitches, and returned to hold

his team together when Italy

closed within one point, 48-

47, seven minutes into the

He grabbed a defensive

rebound and scored on the next drive, then had a steal

and a defensive rebound,

feeding centre Stojan Vrank-

ovic for a dunk that made it a

knee but I am not sure what happened. I didn't feel any pain during the game but it hurts a bit now. But there's no reason for me not to play," Kukoc said. Yugoslavia, which missed

the 1992 Olympics because of U.N. sanctions, is returning to a major tournament after an absence of nearly three

Teams from former Yugoslavia won five European tities. The current team consists of players from Serbia and Montenegro, the only two republics left in the coun-

Yugoslavia led by as many as 24 points and the French only cut the margin when the Yugoslavs slowed down in the second half.

# Syria's Al Jala' arrive today to play Kingdom's women's national basketball team

By Aleen Bannayan Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Syrian women's basketball champions Al Jala' Sunday arrive in Amman on a week-long visit to the Kingdom where they will play four matches against Jordan's national women's leam.

The matches are intended to put the finishing touches on the Kingdom's team's preparations for the upcoming Asian Basketball Championship which will be held in Shizuaka, Japan July 23-30. Al Jala's lineup includes

five players on the Syrian national team including Al Yarmouk club's powerful centre Elo Mardikian. Other national team players include Karin and Miriam Abdulnour, Karla Maghamez, Dina Abdul Samad and Joel Abboushi. Al Jala' have a 3-0 record over Jordanian teams. They

beat Jordan's 1994 champions Al Jazirch twice in Aleppo early last year and again in July '94 when they finished second behind Lebanon's Homentmen in Al Jazireh's five-team regional championship.

Jordan's national team has been practising since January when the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) announced the regrouping of the women's team after a 12-year absence from the basketball

The team is coached by Fadi Sabbah and includes: Rana Husseini, Tala Mauje, Jumana Salti, Hala Muheisen, Suhair Makusi, Andeira Oassesich, Tetiana Oardan, Hind Ghouri, Sirsa Naghaway, Dima Shadeed, Zein Sha'sha'a, Rania Al Dajani Jihan Abdulnour is also set to join the team on Monday after taking leave from her work in Beirut.



# Becker survives early scare to reach last 16

times champion Boris Becker recovered from a shaky start to overcome Dutchman Jan Siemerink 2-6, 6-2, 6-2, 6-4 and clinch a place in the last 16 of the men's singles at Wimbledon on Saturday.

The 27-year-old German, bidding to become only the second man in the tournament's 118-year history to win singles championships 10 years apart, finally proved too strong for the 25-year-old lefthander who broke the German's service twice in the opening set but was too often beaten by Becker's powerful and accurately hit ground strokes as the match progres-

Becker, who first won this title as an unseeded 17-yearold in 1985, would match the record of American Bill Tilden, the only man to date to win titles 10 years apart in 1920 and 1930, if he won the crown for a fourth time next

But in the early stages it looked as though the third seed would have his work cut out winning his way into the fourth round.

Siemerink broke Becker's service in the fourth and eighth games of the opening set which he won 6-2 in 42 minutes. The opening game took 14 minutes and included 12 deuces before the Dutchman won it on his ninth game

But Becker steadied himself after that poor start. He broke back immediately at the start of the second set before rushing into a 5-1 lead and did not lose another service game in the match,

Although he served only seven aces in the centre court sunshine, two of those came his opponent floundering as the German rediscovered his touch in the later stages.

Becker broke Siemerink for a 5-4 lead in the fourth set and in the 10th game the Dutchman held his head in despair after misjudging a bounce which gave Becker

match point.
The German duly wrapped up proceedings with a sliced volley at the net after a workmanlike, rather than spec-tacular two hours and 18 mi-

American seeds Lindsay Davenport and Mary Joe Fernandez lined up for a fourth-round clash in the women's singles.
Seventh seed Davenport

beat German Christina Singer 6-7, 6-3, 6-2, while 13th seed Fernandez, her best friend on the circuit, brushed aside Miriam Oremans of the Netherlands 6-1, 6-2.

Davenport conceded it would be difficult playing

against Fernandez, beaten finalist at last year's French Open and a semifinalist in all the other Grand Slam events in recent years.
"It's definitely going to be

weird because she is like a sister to me. One of us will reach the quarters and it's going to be me," she said. Davenport, 19 and one of the giants of the women's tour at 1.89 metres, struggled with her serve against Singer in a first set in which she

squandered four set points.

Two came at 5-4 and she had two more in the tie-break before the 26-year-old German, who played with one ankle in a brace and the other taped, took it 10-8 on her second set point.

But the bulky Davenport's greater strength took over at that point and Singer wilted under the pressure.

"I'm never going to be a

Sabatini," she said when asked about her size. "I may not be that quick either but once I get moving I've got a fair bit of speed and anticipa-

Her victory took her just under two hours. Fernandez, once ranked as high as fourth in the world, needed less than an hour to beat the hapless

Two unseeded players reached the last 16. Marianne De Swardt of South Africa beat Yone Kamio of Japan 6-4, 6-4 and Australian Nicole Bradke defeated Angelica Gavaldon of Mexico 6-2, 6-4.

Frenchman Cedric Pioline, who beat 1993 Wimbledon runner-up Jim Courier in the second round, overcame German qualifier Patrick Baur 6-4, 6-4, 6-3.

# Big servers revel in Wimbledon heatwave

LONDON (AFP) - Goran old Boetsch after his humi-Ivanisevic, Greg Rusedski liating 84 minute loss. the biggest servers in tennis. blasted their way into the last sixteen of the men's singles at Wimbledon on Friday.

With the continuing heat-wave making the famous grass courts at the All England Club play faster and faster, all three made a mockery of the new lesspressurised balls which are being used at the Championships for the first time and which are supposed to slow down matches.

Ivanisevic, twice a finalist but determined to go one step further this year, served down another score of aces in his 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 centre-court

"It was just poom, poom poom, poom. Even on his

defeat of Amaud Boetsch leaving the Frenchman shell-

second serves you can't see anything," said the 26-year-

WIMBLEDON (AP)

Martina Navratilova received

a standing ovation from the

centre-court but I maybe hit just ten balls in the whole match. What can I say?" The fourth-seeded Iva-

nisevic, who served 209 aces on his way to the 1992 final against Andre Agassi, admitted: "I always serve good on this court and this year the balls are flying with the heat. I'm not scared of playing anyone. But I'd rather hit just one ace rather than 209 aces, and win this tournament.

Ivanisevic now faces 14th seed Todd Martin, a semifinalist twelve months ago. Martin, a 6ft 6in (1m98)

American, came back after trailing by two sets in one to beat compatriot Derrick Rostagno 6-3, 4-6, 4-6, 6-2, 6-4. There were scenes of jubilation on court one when Britain's Canadian-born

player Greg Rusedski, repu-

According to bookmakers

Ladbrokes, Sampras remains

the 4-5 favourite but the odds

on Agassi, who won the title

in 1992 and has breezed

through his two early match-

es without dropping a set, have shortened from 5-1 to

Three-time titlist Boris

Becker remains third

favourite and his odds ha-

ven't changed at 6-1, while

Goran Ivanisevic, runner up

in '92 and last year, started at

Another big mover in the odds list is Petr Korda of the

Czech republic. The lefth-

ander, who was 500-1 before

9-1 but now is 8-1.

gest serve, came storming back to put out Olivier Delaitre of France --- 6-7 (6-8). 6-4, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3). Sampras, bidding for his third consecutive singles

ted to have the world's big-

crown, recovered from a shaky start to beat fellow-American Jared Palmer 4-6. 6-4, 6-1, 6-2, In other third-round matches, Japan's numberone player Shuzo Malsuoka clawed his way back to win a gruelling five-set marathon against last weekend's Not-

tingham champion Javier Frana of Argentina, Frana, who complained several times about the behaviour and noise of a predominantly Japanese crowd packed around court thirteen - one of the outside showcourts -- crashed 7-6, (7/3),

3-6, 6-7 (6/8), 7-6 (7/4), 6-3. Matsuoka's next opponent will be American Michael Joyce who defeated Britain's

home-grown hope Chris Wil-kinson 5-7, 6-4, 7-6 (7/3), 6-4. American baseline Aaron

Krickstein had to go the full distance to outlast stubborn Spaniard Thomas Carbonell. He scored a 6-7 (2/7), 7-5, 5-7, 6-3, 6-2 win and now faces Yevgeny Kafelnikov who defeated fellow-Russian Alexander Volkov in straight-sets.

Japanese hopes in the women's singles took a blow when 15th seed Naoko Sawamatsu who has twice reached the fourth round in five previous visits, was beaten instraight-sets in the third round by qualifier Petra The 210th-ranked Dutch

player scored a 6-1, 7-6 (7/5) Yayuk Basuki of Indonesia

surged back after a hesitant start to reach the fourth round for the fourth consecutive year by beating East-bourne champion Nathalie Tauziat of France. Tauziat, who put out fifthseeded compatriot Mary

Pierce in the previous round, went down 7-6 (7/4), 3-6, 4-6, Spain's top favourites, second-seed Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario and defending champion Conchita Martinez, both took another step towards a probable semi-final

showdown. Sanchez-Vicario, playing possibly the best grass-court tennis of her career defeated 1990 finalist Zina Garrison-

Jackson in straight-sets. The 31-year-old American, who is appearing at the Championships for the last time, won only five games.

Martinez, who had lost only five of 44 matches this season and who has been beaten only once - by Steffi Graf in the French Open semi-finals — in her last five tournaments, defeated Shaun Stafford of the United States 6-1. 6-1.

# Navratilova returns for 23rd time

centre court crowd Friday when she made her 23rd even though Pete Sampras appearance in a row at remains favoared to win his

Now retired as a singles player, the nine-time Wimbledon titlist had planned to aim for an eighth women's doubles title but her partner. Steffi Graf. pulled out to

Wimbledon.

avoid aggravating injuries. But Navratilova, who first played in 1973 as a 16-yearold, teamed up with Jonathan Stark in a first-round mixed doubles match. They downed fellow Americans Matt Lucena and Tami Whitlinger-Jones, 6-4, 7-6 (7-1).

Big money on Andre: after five days of Wim ledon, the money's pouring in on Andre Agassi to win his second title. the tournament started, is a 33-1 shot after beating fifth seed Michael Chang in straight sets in the second round Tuesday. Five-time titlist Steffi Graf

remains the 1-2 favourite to win the women's tournament with defending titlist Conchita Martinez second at 7-2. Don't copy Andre: Andre Agassi would be booted off court if he tried to play at any

of the stuffy English clubs, according to tennis coach Alan Jones. "It is not because of the way he plays, but what he wears," said Jones, long time

coach of Britain's Jo Durie. "Andre Agassi, the most marketable and charismatic figure in the game, would not be allowed to play at virtually any club in the land," Jones said in a enticism of the British attitude to the game. "The kids want to put on the same clothes as him. But

they would be kicked off

court if they were what he did when he won the Australian Open. At several tournaments this year, Agassi wore black socks and shoes and pat-terned shorts. At Wimbledon, players are made to predominantly white

with a white bandana on his head. "His all-white gear for Wimbledon is exceptional." Jones said. "How are we going to get out kids playing

and Agassi complies, even

in droves if they can't emulate their hero? "The archaic attitude of

our clubs is a huge problem and unless they change their ways towards children, we are going to have problems.
"We simply aren't getting

enough youngsters into the game. They could play the game nude as long as they wear the right shoes so they don't scuff up the court. Signing off: Michael

Chang, recent finalist at the French Open clocked in and out Wimbledon in double quick time when he was beaten in straight-sets in the second-round by Czech Petr Korda. But the fourth-seeded Chinese-American won an army of new fans after his morning practice session. He staved behind on the Aorangi Park Court for a full 20 minutes until every autograph hunter had been satisfied.

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Claimed the rest of the tricks.

The correct defense is easy to spot from the West seef. South surely must have the ace and king of clubs and king of dismonds to open the bidding, so the only hope of setting the contract lay in a trump promotion. To make that clear to partner. West should have led a low space to the third trick.

As long as East takes care to ruff the trick with the right of hearts, the contract must go down to defeat. Decisiver can overruff with the queen and lead a tump, but when in with the ace of hearts, West simply reverts to a spade and, whether declarer ruffs high or low in dummy. East must score the jack of hearts or passour for the setting trick.

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Hi Fr MAGNY (AFP) \_

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But the ( ly upset at the weeken tain to slo Sunday. Over-zer technicians sets of Schu

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# **NBA locks out** players

NEW YORK (R) — The National Baskerball Association, previously untainted by the labour woes that have blemished other team sports, began its first work stoppage at midnight on Friday when the owners locked out the

The lockout began when the "no-strike, no-lockout" agreement struck in October expired. Commissioner David Stern said on Friday that the owners had "no other option."

Recent events left the owners no other option because the players repudiated a hard-fought agreement containing compromises and difficult choices by both sides," Stern said.

"It's a shame that the success we and our players have enjoyed as a result of working together is now in jeopar-

The lockout coincides with expiration of the no-strike, no-lockout pledge made by both sides last October that allowed the 1994-95 season to be played without interruption. The last collective bargaining aggreement expired exactly a year ago.

The owners last week unanimously approved an agreement worked out between the league and the ties will be shut down, the Players' Association. But league said.

player representatives post-poned their votes on the deal and a small group of prominent players have taken steps to decertify the union and nullify the recent negotia-

The deal reached last week was the product of 18 months of hard-fought good faith bargaining," said NBA deputy commissioner Russ Granik, a member of the

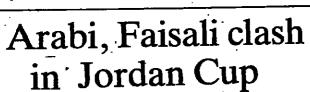
negotiating team.
"If that deal is no longer acceptable to the players, then we are prepared to keep negotiating."

With no bargaining sessions scheduled for Friday, however, the NBA appears headed for the same type of labour problems that plagued baseball and hockey last

The NBA has prospered and avoided any serious labour strife since Stern became commissioner in 1984.

The lockout cancels payments to players for the 1995-96 season and terminates all benefits. It also prohibits negotiations and contract signings between teams and

All summer leagues, tryout and team-sponsored offseason games will be cancelled and team training facili-



By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Al Arabi Sunday take on the country's top soccer team, Al Faisali, in the final round of the 16th Jordan Cup — the second most important of the Kingdom's soccer competitions.

Al Faisali are aiming for a fourth consecutive and a record 9th Jordan Cup title, while Al Arabi have a modest record and were the winners in 1986.

Al Faisali eliminated Al Jazireh and Al Zarqa while Al Arabi upset newcomers Kufrsoum and Al Qoqazi on their way to the final round. The other teams in the final round are Al Hussein and Al

Al Hussein, who clinched their first major title when they won the 1994 Federation Shield, had an easy path to final round eliminating lowly Al Yarmouk and Sahab.

Al Ramtha also easily qualified, overcoming Al Baqaa and That Ras. Al Ramtha were the Jordan Cup finalists in the last two years and the titleholders in 1990 and 1991.

Twenty eight teams from the First Division and the Premier League entered the Jordan Cup. The most surprising result was Premier League champions Al Wihdat's elimination by Al Baqaa.

> Schudule of Jordan Cup final round matches

Sun. 2/7 Faisəli vs. Arabi 77 Hussein vs. Ramtha Thursday 6/7 Faisali vs. Hussein

Arabi vs. Ramtha Sunday 9/7 Faisali vs. Ramtha Arabi vs. Hussein

> Jordan Cup record (Runners up in brackets)

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1984	Arabi (Jazireh) Faisali (Hussein) Wilder (Faisali)
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1960	Feleni (Pamila)
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1990	personantia (Wilder)
1991	Rantha (Wildat)
1992	Faisal (Windat)
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# Hill wins pole for **French Grand Prix**

MAGNY COURS, France (AFP) — Damon Hill was celebrating a pole position start in the French Grand Prix on Saturday, but world champion Michael Schumacher was left with a tyre shortage which jeopardises

his race on Sunday.
Hill, on provisional pole after Friday's first qualifying, saw the prized position change hands four times in the second session, before returning to the Williams Renault driver for good with a time of a 1 min 17.225sec.

Schumacher, top of the current drivers' championship with a seven-point lead over Hill, was twice in pole position before finaly being forced to settle for

second fastest in 1:17.512. But the German was clear-· ly upset at events earlier in the weekend which are certain to slow him down on

Sunday. Over-zealous Goodyear technicians punctured two sets of Schumacher's tyres on Friday while taking tyre temperatures — reducing

him to tive sets for the entire

weekend. "We've got big problems," said Schumacher. "We don't have enough tyres for the race — we can't run the old tyres because it would be a safety risk. My car would be unsafe if I had to use those other tyres. We all know what happenes when a tyre explodes.

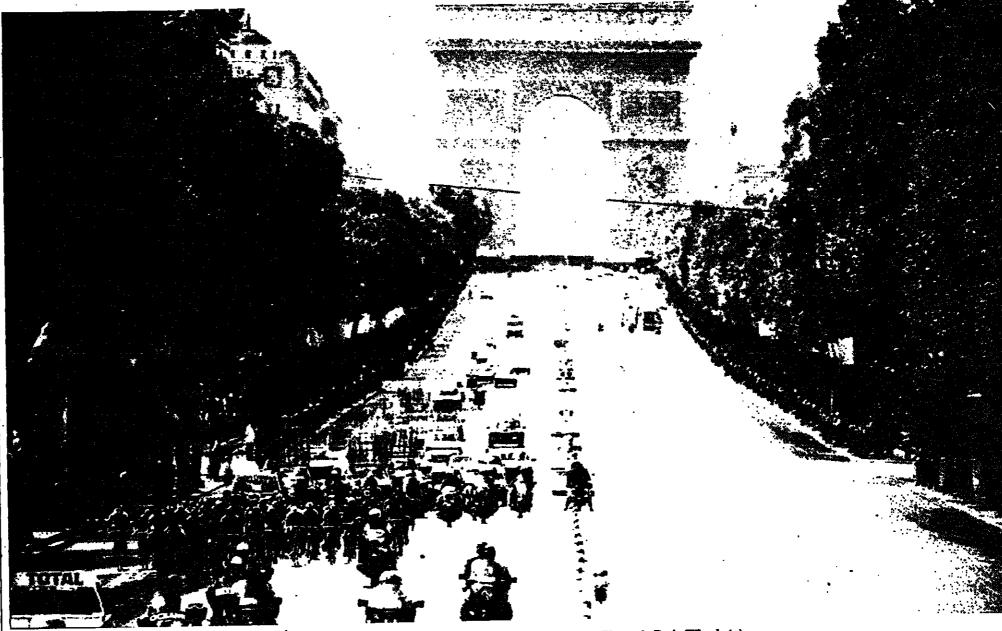
Benetton asked the ruling International Automabile Federation for permission to use an extra two sets — but the FIA refused to bend the

Benetton were appealing that decision on Saturday, but a u-turn by officials here looked unlikely.

Schumacher said: "I'm sure that it's being discussed at the momeent. But now is not the time to make a stupid comment.

Schumacher's press manager, Heiner Buchinger, later tried to play down the drama.

"We are negotiating at the moment," he told AFP, "but I don't think there's much chance that the FIA are going to change their mind.



Cyclists in the Tour de France — the world's major cycling competition on their last lap down the Champs-Elysees in Paris (File photo)

# Indurain aims for history at Tour de France

SAINT-BRIEUC, France (AP) — Five in succession. It has never been done. Still, Miguel Indurain is favoured to rewrite the 92-year-old history of the Tour de France over the next three weeks.

Standing in the way of the supreme cyclist of the 1990s is Tony Rominger, an aging Swiss who is reaching peak form at 34, and local hero Laurent Jalabert, who has been transformed into an allround star since he crashed out of last year's tour.

The prologue will give a first indication on who's hot and who's not, especially since it will be run on an undulating 7.3-kilometre. (4.5-mile) loop through this brittany resort town.

The prologue will be par-ticularly tough. It'll be a test for everyone," Indurain said.

But for the Spaniard, it'll be a 23-day, 3,635-kilometre (2,254-mile) test to see men Jacques Anquetil and

winners. What sets Indurain last fall. On top of this, he apart, is that he can do it in five consecutive years.

"The fifth tour doesn't worry me. I'm just centering on winning this one," Indurain said Friday. And his preparation has been flawless, including victories in two preparatory one-week races that cover portions of this year's tour.

"I'm in excellent form," he said. Considering he has won by ever-bigger margins over the past four years, some might think the result is a foregone conclusion.

However, for the first time in years, opposition looks real\_tough.

"It'll be a lot harder for Miguel, because there are a lot of guys in great shape," Rominger said.
Including himself. Romin-

ger, currently No. 1 in the world rankings, overwhether he can join Belgian whelmed opposition during Eddy Merckx and French-the Giro last month and already took Indurain's one-

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claims to feel no pressure. "I'm already satisfied with

my year. I've won the Giro, the Swiss said. But after finishing second in 1993 and abandoning last year's race after falling ill, the 'yellow jersey' going to the tour winner is one of the few things still missing. And at his age, he knows he will not get to many more chances.

The Parisians will be look-. ing for Jalabert in yellow during the concluding laps on the Champs Elysees when what's left of the 189-strong starting field hits Paris on July 23.

France has not had a champion since Hinault won his last of five tours in 1985 and Jalabert has given them

Currently third in the world rankings, just below Indurain, he has won one-day classics and climbed on some of the toughest mountains along with the best.

It is a far cry from last year, when he crashed horribly during the opening sprint fin-ish of the tour, losing several teeth and needing reconstructive surgery on his face. He missed the rest of the

year, but it brought him back stronger and better this sea-

Other outsiders include Evgueni Berzin, who finished second in the Giro. The Russian has been peaking towards his best form over the past weeks, as has Italy's star mountain climber Marco

American Lance Armstrong is not among the favourites and he has set himself less lofty goals too finishing is paramount.

His first two tours finished early, with pre-planned de-sertions halfway through the

After winning the Tour Dupont at home, he is reaching cycling maturity at

"I have never done three weeks. I wouldn't mind being close to the top 10 in the final standings," he said.

After Saturday's opening, the next test comes on Tuesday when a 67-kilometre (41.6-mile) team time trial is

July 9 could be decisive for many with the first individual time trial over 54 kilometres of hilly terrain in Belgium. Over the past years, Indurain each time opened a big gap, and controlled the race from that point.

Climbers get their chance after that, with five mountain stages in the Alps and Pyrenees.

If things are still not settled by July 22, a final time trial should.

The next day the Tour will be history and Indurain may have his share of it.





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The Russian government survived a no-confidence vote in parliament on Saturday after President Boris Yeltsin sacrificed three top hardline members of the cabinet.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin emerged strengthened from the vote, which could have forced Mr. Yeltsin to choose between dismissing the government or dissolving parliament, and said he wanted to cooperate with the deputies rather than fight them.

The confrontation between the executive power and the legislature has been resolved," he told reporters. "Now it is time to work

and not to quarrel." he said. calling for better cooperation with the cabinet.

A total of 193 deputies supported the no-confidence motion in the State Duma lower house of parliament. short of the 226 required for

the vote to pass. On June 21, 241 deputies had supported a non-binding no-confidence vote but some appeared by Mr. Yeltsin's Kremlin purge ahead of the second, binding vote.

"The Duma proved to be more responsible than many people have thought. Vyachelsav Nikonov, a moderate deputy, said.

The Duma initiated the vote in anger at a bloody raid by Chechen gunmen last month on the southern Russian town of Budennovsk in which at least 121 people were killed and more than 1.000 held hostage for six

If Saturday's vote had passed, Mr. Yeltsin would have been forced under the constitution to sack the government or dissolve parliament and call an election. The next election is currently scheduled for December.

Mr. Yeltsin had made clear he would opt to dissolve the Duma rather than dismiss the government and some de-

Abu Zeid's

files appeal

CAIRO (Agencies) --- A col-

league of Nasr Hamed Abu

Zeid, a university professor

ruled a heretic and ordered

raised an appeal to suspend

execution of the sentence.

legal sources said Saturday.

Matters will examine on

Thursday the appeal filed by

Ahmad Hussein Al Ahwani,

a science professor at Cairo

On July 15, in an unpre-

cedented ruling, an appeals

court judged Dr. Abu Zeid.

an Arabic professor, a heretic

and ordered him separated

from his wife on the grounds

that a Muslim woman cannot

The court ruled that Dr.

be married to an apostate.

Abu Zeid's writings attacked

islam and denied the

Dr. Ahwani's appeal, if

won, would suspend the

separation of the couple until

an appeal against the judge-

Dr. Ahwani pointed out in

his appeal that Dr. Abu Zeid

had pronounced the oath of

Islamic faith in a public state-

ment published in a govern-

ment newspaper after the

Meanwhile, the public pro-

secutor's office announced on

Saturday it would raise an

appeal against the judgement

before the Supreme Court by

the end of next week, after

studying the ruling. Dr. Abu Zeid also intends

to appeal the judgement be-

Jailed for poster

sentenced a cinema owner to

three months in jail with hard

labour for displaying a film

poster that showed an actress

Sobby, who is also a film

producer, five hundred

pounds (\$147) for offending

The poster is for a 1973 production called "Layali

Lan Taoud" (unrepeatable

nights) starring renowned

femme fatale Nahed Sherif.

former member of parlia-

ment turned Islamist

preacher, took Mr. Sobhy to

court along with nine Muslim fundamentalist lawyers.

had given Mr. Sobhy permis-

sion in 1973 to show the film

and told him he could dis-

playa the poster only if he

covered Ms. Sherif's cleav-

age, the plaintiffs said.

The film censor's office

Sheikh Yousef Al Badri, a

The court fined Badea

in a low-cut dress.

public morals.

A Cairo court on Saturday

fore the Supreme Court.

teachings of the Koran.

ment is considered.

judgement.

University.

The Court for Emergency

ated fron

colleague

'a gesture of self-

preservation. In a clear attempt to avoid a head-on collision with parliament, Mr. Yeltsin on Friday accepted the resignations of three senior ministers widely blamed for the Buden-

novsk drama and for Russia's

bloody campaign in the rebel

region of Chechenya. They were Interior Minister Viktor Yerin, Nationalities Minister Nikolai Yegorov, federal security service chief Sergei Stepashin. Mr. Yeltsin also sacked Yevgeny Kuznetsov, governor of the Stavropol region which includes Budennovsk.

The president ignored calls to sack his long-time ally. Defence Minister Pavel Grachev, who was the top of the list of ministers who deputies wanted sacked and who had offered to resign on Thursday.

Mr. Grachev sided with Mr. Yeltsin during a bloody hardliners' revolt in Moscow in October 1993.

Mr. Chernomyrdin was not the main target of the noconfidence motion. He has won wide public backing by negotiating an end to the Budennovsk hostage crisis and clearing the way for new peace talks in Chechenya.

The staunchest opponents of Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Chernomyrdin, such as the communists and ultra-nationalists of Vladimir Zhirinovsky. made clear they would continue trying to topple the government.

"Those who rule Russia now have inflicted more harm to it than (Nazi leader Adolf) Hitler and Napoleon (French emperor who invaded Russia in 1812)," Mr. Zhirinovsky said during a brief debate. "They are worse, more insidious and

"We do not trust this government... its policy is ruinous," said communist leader Gennady Zyuganov.

Russian and Chechen negotiators meeting in Groz-ny said Saturday that a partial breakthrough in their peace talks looked likely by the

Debates in the morning on political issues had been "the most successful so far." said Sandor Meszaros, head of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) mission, which is sponsoring the talks.

Mr. Meszaros said there was "hope for an agreement this evening," and Russian mediator Arkadi Volsky echoed the optimism.

Separatist negotiator Usman Imayev said Chechen chief of staff Aslan Mashkhadov had left Grozny "for consultations" and should return with "good news for this evening.

Mr. Imayev would not say whether Mr. Mashkadov would be seeing fugitive rebel president Dzhokhar Dudayev who is rumoured to be staying too far away for a return trip of just a few hours.

None of the peace talks delegates would say what issues were likely to be resolved Saturday, but the main political issue of recent days has been the question of elections, which Moscow would like to see held in

Other main questions include the setting up of an interim government ahead of elections, what type of elections - legislative or presidential - and whether Mr. Dudayev can stand.

The peace talks began June 18, and have so far succeeded only in achieving a poorly observed ceasefire.

On Thursday, Mr. Volsky said a further round of peace talks could involve a face-toface meeting between Mr. Chernomyrdin and Mr.

# **NEWS IN BRIEF**

Suspected informer killed in south Egypt

ASSIUT (R) — Suspected Muslim militants shot dead a farmer they believed was a police informer as he returned home from the fields in southern Egypt, security sources said on Saturday. They said two gunmen opened fire on Salah Nageh Tadros on Friday night in the village of Greis in Minya province, about 240 kilometres south of Cairo. The men are allegedly members of the militant Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah, which has been fighting a low-level guerrilla war against police in southern Egypt for more than three years in a bid to destabilise the Egyptian government and set up a strict Islamic state. The assailants believed Tadros had helped police with their investigations into militant violence in Minya province, the focus of most policemilitant clashes in the past few months. More than 780 people have been killed in political violence in Egypt since militants launched their campaign in 1992.

### Lebanon gets back stolen statues

BEIRUT (R) - Lebanon recovered four ancient phoenician marble statues after they were smuggled out of the country during the civil war and sold in Switzerland. The four sons of Ashmoun, the Phoenician god of health, were brought back home on Friday evening after intensive negotiations between Lebanese and Swiss judicial authorities. "We knew about the statues through a Swiss archaeologist who notified us after recognising them at a Swiss gallery," former Lebanese Ambassador in Switzerland Found Al Turk, who led the negotiations, told reporters at Beirut airport. He said the statues, dating to the second millenium B.C., were transferred from Ashmoun temple in the coastal city of Sidon during Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war to the city of Byblos. In 1982, they were smuggled to Belgium and then sold to a Swiss woman. "Thank God we were able to bring back the statues safely to Lebanon as their historical and archaeological value is priceless," Mr. Turk said.

### **Funeral service held for Daoud Tawil**

PARIS (AP) - Government representatives, ambassadors, and family friends paid their last respects Friday to Daoud Tawil, a prominent banker from the West Bank who was also Yasser Arafat's father-in-law. Tawil. who lived in Paris for many years, died Monday after a long. undisclosed illness. Suha Arafat, supported by body guards and wearing sunglasses, battled tears as she tossed a single pink rose into her father's grave at the Montparnasse cemetery. In an interview published earlier this week, she expressed the hope that her father would live long enough to witness the birth of her first child. Mrs. Arafat is expected to deliver next month. Funeral services at the Saint-Stephane church drew many prominent political figures, including the Palestine Liberation Organisation chief's cabinet head, Ramzi Khoury, According to the French news agency Agence-France Presse. Mr. Arafat was unable to attend the funeral. AFP also reported the presence of the former Israeli governor of Naplouse, Tawil's home city, a long-time family friend. Former French President François Mitterrand was represented by his son, Jean-Christophe. Ambassadors from several Arab countries also reportedly attended.

### Judge delays trial of Lebanese MP

BEIRUT (R) - A Lebanese court Saturday postponed the trial of a member of parliament (MP) charged for trafficking drugs, judicial sources said. They said the judge decided to delay until July 29 the trial of Yahia Shamas. due to the absence of several members of the tribunal council and of Mr. Shamas himself who is being treated for cardiac problems at a Beirut hospital. Shamas, a Muslim deputy for the Bekaa Valley which was a centre for the multi-million-dollar illegal trade during Lebanon's 1975-1990 civil war, was charged last March with possession. processing, smuggling and dealing in drugs. He was arrested on drugs charges last November after parliament lifted his immunity. If convicted, Mr. Shamas could be sentenced to up to seven years in prison.

# Ekeus holds intense talks with Rashid

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A U.N. team seeking answers to the last questions about banned Iraqi military programmes spent all of Saturday in intensive talks that could help determine the future of economic sanctions. A U.N. official said Rolf

Ekeus, head of the U.N. programme to eliminate the Iraqi weapons, met in the morning with General Amir Mohammad Rashid, former head of the Military Industrialisation Organisation.

Meetings of experts from both sides continued through the afternoon and evening. Mr. Ekeus was scheduled

to meet Gen. Rashid and Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz on Sunday for final talks before leaving en route to New York to report his findings to the U.N. Security Council, the official said. Details of the talks,

thought to centre on a missing 17 tonnes of "growth media" that could have been used to make biological weapons, were described as too sensitive to be discussed before reporting in New York.

Mr. Ekeus, head of the

U.N. Special Commission on disarming Iraq (UNSCOM), met Gen. Rashid, the newlyappointed oil minister and main traqi negotiator on disarmament also on Friday. His six-member U.N. delegation included three ex-

perts in biological weapons

was expected to stay three

days, after flying in from

leaves

**Russia** 

MOSCOW (Agencies) — U.S. Vice-President Al Gore

left Moscow on Saturday af-

ter two days of talks with Russian Prime Minister Vik-

tor Chernomyrdin on econo-

mic cooperation. ITAR-

TASS News Agency said.

Mr. Gore took part in the meeting of a U.S.-Russian

commission on economic and

technological cooperation,

which he co-chairs with Mr.

Sodeco (Sakhalin Oil De-

The Gore-Chernomyrdin

talks, taking place amid tight

security due to Russia's con-

flict with Chechen separat-

ists, coincided with the dock-

ing of the U.S. space shuttle

Atlantis with the Russian

The shuttle was carrying

five U.S. astronauts and two

Russian cosmonauts on the

first of several planned joint

missions that could lead to

the establishment of an inter-

The meeting ended just a

day before Mr. Chernomy-

rdin's government survived a

vote of no-confidence in par-

TABS said 21 documents

have been singed during the

meeting. Gore also met Pres-

ident Boris Yeltsin during his

Mr. Gore and Chernomy-

rdin failed to settle a dispute

over nuclear sales to Iran but

took some steam out of a row

over a U.S.-Russian uranium

Department said Friday,

Russia met U.S. concerns ab-

out Russian conventional

arms sales to Iran during Mr.

At a U.S.-Russian summit

in September 1994 in

Washington, Mr. Yeltsin

pledged not to sell conven-

tional weapons to Iran once

existing contracts were totally

Until now, the United

Moscow to provide details of

the contracts - estimated to

be worth several billion dol-

lars and to include submar-

tines and tanks - to verify

few years." said Mr. Burns.

who added that they were not

sufficient to alter the military

balanced in the Middle East.

At the same time, he said

there was no agreement on

the issue of Russian sales of

light water nuclear reactors

State Department spokes-

Mr. Yeltsin's promise.

Gore's talks in Moscow,

However, the U.S. State

deal.

honoured.

contracts.

national space station.

liament on Saturday.

orbital station Mir.

velopment Company).

Chernomyrdin.

of Sakhalin.

Manama, It is the second Ekeus visit to Baghdad in the Iraq said Sunday it would clear up international concerns about its germ warfare potential if the United Nations gave Baghdad a clean bill of health on other apons programmes.

U.N. disarmament chief Rolf Ekeus talks to reporters in

Baghdad upon his arrival on Friday (AFP photo)

After his last visit to Baghdad at the end of May, Mr.

embargo. Gen. Rashid has been the

main negotiator with UN-SCOM as the head of the Military Industrialisation Organisation, which was tasked with converting the country's military industry to civilian uses after the Gulf

He was named to the post of oil minister on Friday, replacing Safaa Jawad, who became advisor to President

multilaterals on water — Jordan

from Damascus and Beirut

underlined the importance

Amman attaches to Syrian

and Lebanese participation in

talks on regional cooperation as part of the Arab-Israeli

Syria and Lebanon are

staying away from the multi-

lateral talks that tackle water,

the environment, refugees,

arms control and security and

regional economic coopera-

tion saying that their parti-

cipation would come only af-

ter progress is made in the

bilateral negotiations with

Israel on the basic political

to the River Yarmouk and

tributaries to that river, Syria

and Lebanon have a major

role to play in any arrange-

ments on water sharing and

cooperation in enhancing the

availability of water to the

Their absence from the

talks on regional cooperation

is seen to be hampering many

proposals that have been

brought up by participants in

the multilateral working

groups, particularly in the

Foreign Minister Abdul

Karim Kabariti said last

month that Jordan remained

highly hopeful that Syria and

Lebanon would soon join the

working group on water.

region's countries.

Being upstream riparians

conflict.

The Military Industrialisation Organisation is directly responsible to President Saddam. Gen. Hussein Kamal Hassan, the president's sonin-law and industry minister. was named as its new director on Friday. Mr. Ekeus, a former Swed-

ish Diplomat, said before arriving he wanted Iraq to account for the "growth media." Iraq said its cooperation depended on the United Nations declaring investigations into other weapons programmes permanently closed and guaranteeing to lift the ban on oil exports.

With splits inside the U.N. Security Council over terms for easing sanctions. Iraq hopes the U.S. determination to keep sanctions would be overcome by the more sympathetic view of France, Russia and China.
The United States has link-

ed a lifting of the sanctions. which have blocked Iraq's oil exports and devastated its economy, to Iraqi behaviour in a wide range of areas beyond the military programmes, including its human rights record.

The United States can block in easing of the sanctions through its veto power in the Security Council — which it has vowed to use if necessary.

Russia and France have both suggested linking an easing of the ban on oil ex-Iraq has complied with all the arms control demands, including biological weapons.

While no official would

confirm it, a recent meeting

held between Mr. Kabariti

and the Syrian charge d'af-

faires in Amman was be-

lieved to have dealt with the

issue of water, an area that

Jordan and Syria agreed to

cooperate as early as the

A Syrian official quoted by

Reuter said Saturday: "Syria

did not take part in multi-

lateral talks in Geneva. Our

position is clear and it is one

The official said Damascus

believed the multilateral talks

would be fruitful only when

tangible progress was

achieved in bilateral talks.

coordinates its position with

part.

Lebanon, which closely

"Lebanon is still insisting

on not participating in any

multilateral negotiations as

long as no fundamental prog-

ress is achieved in the bilater-

al talks," the secretary gener-

al for Lebanon's Foreign

Ministry, Zafer Al Hassan,

non's participation in such a

conference is altogether in-

correct," Mr. Hassan said.

clined comment on the re-

ports broadcast by both Israel

Radio and Israeli army radio.

"The news about Leba-

Israel's foreign ministry de-

told Reuters.

of firm Syrian principles."

Madonna'

### **Dutch diocese** warns against pilgrimages to weeping.

BRUNSSUM. Netherlands (AP) — A local retiree claims his statue of the Virgin Mary wept tears of blood, but speaking to the same news-paper, the Roman Catholic diocese Friday discouraged potential pilgrims. Jan Coumans, who owns the 30 centimetre (12-inch) statue, has put it on his doorstep in this southern Roman Catholic area so visitors can get a better look. "The diocese doesn't want to ban believers from visiting the concerned Madonna statue. But it in no way wants to call people to go," the diocese said in a statement. "In fact, the diocese strongly advises not to go." A picture of the statue with a red discoloration down the left side of its face appeared on the front page of Friday's national daily Alge-meen Dagblad. Red liquid was first spotted Tuesday on the statue of Our Sacred Lady of Fatima, according to the paper. The Dutch press dubbed it the "weeping Madonna." "I'm not a believer, but when I saw the miracle happen with my own eyes I fell to me knees, Gerard Stevens, who lives nearby, was quoted as telling the newspaper. "I dipped my finger in the blood," he said, "and I know for sure that it was real." Mr. Coumans, 63, said his wife, 67, also was initially sceptical. "At first, Gerda didn't want to believe it, but when she saw the blood she ran outside in panic." "Why would Maria perform wonders in Italy and not here." Gerda was quoted as saying. "She's shedding tears of blood over the misery and the rising unbelief in the

### American fined \$4.000 for plunging over Niagara Falls

TORONTO (R) — Canadian courts fined an American daredevil 6,000 Canadian dollars (\$4,000) Friday for plunging over the Niagara Falls with a woman in an Ontario officials said. Court officials said 33-year Steven Trotter of Fort Lauderdale, Florida pleaded guilty to a charge of stunting under the Niagara Parks Act. Trotter is still being held by Canadian immigration authorities in Thorold, Ontario near the popular honeymoon spot where he and his friend Lori Martin of Atlanta, Georgia hurtled to infamy on June 18. Canadian immigration officials said he will appear at a hearing Saturday to deter-mine whether he has violated Canadian law by lying about his reasons for visiting Canada when he crossed the border. Depending on the outcome of the hearing Mr. Mar-tin could be asked to leave Canada within 30 days, banned from visiting for one year or deported and banned from Canada for life. The two were treated for shock, bumps and bruises

### Half Taiwan pupils get physical punishment

TAIPEI (R) - Half of Taiwan's junior-high-school students say they are physically punished by their teachers in school, a private foundation said Saturday. Of the 827 students polled across the island, 50.4 per cent said they had been physically punished by teachers recently, said the survey by the Formosa Foundation for Education and Culture. There are 1.2 million juniorhigh-school students, aged between 13 and 15, in Taiwan, according to official data. "The top three punishments are beating the hand, running around the playground and hitting the botan official at the tom." foundation said by telephone. Among the punished, 48.7 per cent said they were punished for bad academic results or failing to answer questions, she said. The ancient Chinese idiom "good students come from strict teachers" has been used to justify Taiwan teachers punishing their students, but there have been calls to end physical punishments in recent years and some teachers have been punished for beat-. ing students.

#### Ekeus told the Security ports to Mr. Ekeus reporting Council that Iraq's failure to Saddam Hussein's office. The official news agency INA disclose germ warfare details gave no explanation for the move. was the only significant obstacle to lifting the oil Syria, Lebanon did not attend

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

UNSCOM's rear base in

last month

AMMAN -- A top Jordanian expert on water and the Kingdom's senior negotiator on water-related issues on Saturday corroborated denials from Syria and Lebanon that delegates from those two countries had attended a round of multilateral meetings in Geneva last month.

Munther Haddadin said be had attended the meeting in Geneva on June 28 and only Jordan, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) and Israel were present in the

The most important agreement sealed during the meet-"It was an inter-sessional ing held on Thursday and meeting of the multilateral Friday was a \$15 billion deal working group on water" of the Middle East peace pro-cess, Dr. Haddadin told the to develop oil and gas fields Kussia's far esatern island Jordan Times. "I attended This project involves U.S. the meeting and only Mideast Exxon Corp and Japan's

parties present there were Jordan, the Palestinians and Israel," he said. Dr. Haddadin described the reports carried by Israel's state-run radios that Syrian

and Lebanese delegates attended the meeting as "inaccurate. "This is one of the inaccurate reports that we have

been used to hearing from Israeli radio," he said without elaboration. However, the Jordanian

effort for regional cooperacorroboration of the denials

### Rights groups warn of hunger-strikers' health

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Many of the 4,000 Palestinian prisoners involved in an open-ended hunger-strike aimed at winning their release from Israeli jails are in a criticial condition, two human rights groups has said.

The Mandela Institute human rights group and the Al Haq jurists' association warned that the health of prisoners was deteriorating rapidly after 13 days without food and accused Israeli au-

thorities of negligent medical treatment. In a joint statement, the two groups accused prison officials of withdrawing daily rations of milk, until now accepted by many of the strikers, and of refusing medical treatment unless the

protesters agreed to give up States have vainly called on their fast. They also accused the apthorities at most jails and military detention centres of denying prisoners the right to be visited by lawyers and of preventing lawyers discussing the strike with clients at other

man Nicholas Burns said Mr. Chernomyrdin provided Mr. The groups said "many ill Gore with information on prisoners, who were initially "the existing flow of arms" to in serious medical situations Iran and the duration of the before the strike, are now in "Old contracts will end in a critical states.

They added that five had been transferred to Ramia prison hospital near Tel Aviv and a sixth had been moved from Shatta prison to Assaf Harufeh hospital in the centre of the country. "A large number of prison-

ers participating in the strike

suffer daily from the rapid deterioration of their medical conditions," they added. The two organisations de-

manded that the authorities give medical treatment to those who required it, allow lawyers to visit prisoners and stop punishing those taking part in the strike. There was no immediate

response from prison offi-cials.

Israel's police and justice ministers, Moshe Shahal and David Libai, met Palestinian Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath and Justice Minister Freih Abu Middein on Friday to discuss prisoners releases. They agreed to hold further talks in the coming days.

Mr. Shahal said more than half the 6,500 prisoners would remain in jail for the near future. Israel announced Thursday that hundreds of prisoners will be freed when an accord on extending Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank is reached and hundreds more after elec-

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has demanded a timetable for the release of all inmates to end the hunger strike.

Some 400 prisoners gave up their 13-day-old hunger strike on Friday, Israeli television reported.

The prisoners at Jenid prison near Nablus in the occupied West Bank sat at table for dinner, the television

Palestinian sources were unable to confirm the report.

### Arab women condemn violence, prejudices

BEIRUT (R) - An Arab "court of women" has denounced all kinds of violence against females as public right crimes while it prepared evidence for the United Nations of male violence in the Arab World.

The unprecedented 'court" closed on Friday night after three days of deliberations in which it heard testimonies of male abuses by 33 women from 14 Arab countries.

The findings and recom-mendations of the "court" will be presented to the U.N. sponsored world women's conference in Beijing next month.

"Violence against woman constitutes an aggression against her humanity, her dignity and an infringement on her rights and freedom." the nine-member women court said in a statement,

It said the testimonies provided cutting evidence that tyranny against women in underdeveloped Arab countries resulted from legal male prejudices, paternal and tribal cultures and religious extremism.

"We demand wide-range legal and executive amendments to the penal code, personal status, social security and work laws." said the court, organised by El Taller. an international group based in Tunisia

OCUPIED JERUS LEAST (Agencies) Palestinian (Agencies) Palestinian (Agencies) campaigning for priorets from Israeli jaits intrelease from Israeli jaits intrelease their hunger-related their hunger-related and substantial Liberation by Palestine Liberation by Palestinian minimum. Palestinian ntonomy said said in Nablus. Innaes in jails in Nablus. Innaes in jails in Nablus. Innaes in Jenin on the Ranallah and Jenin on the Ranallah and Jenin on the complete and step up their pointer and step up their points in the returning to chink which he refusing to chink Fact, the sources said. The last for treedom. 2011ned no weeks 220, a 25 tope that PLO leader \ asset And and Israel Foreign Missir Shimon Peres will a man mdnight dezallas for Mitment on spreading Pleasan self-rule actions

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Volume 19 Number 594

**prisoners** 

relaunch

OCUPIED JERUSALEM

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on the pressures of the

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the Israeli prison service sad only 1,200 prospers sere continuing their services feminday our of the sho joined the nunger-strike

ampaign. A spokesman for 170 Palestiman Mandela 55 tute, a human rights group said: "Palestinian omschendrank milk and some attention on Saturday in tech. Community to international roles is not

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for of Palestine Radio Mr Armes made the piedge Comment on page 7)

AMINAGENCIES) — Egypta fram Minister Amir la Rinked Sudan's spir-

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